

From a letter we have  
written by John Standcock  
to Maj. Gen. Canby, John lived  
during the period at City Hotel in  
New Orleans.

November 28th 1864,

I have frequently regretted  
in not having kept a diary  
since I left home last spring.  
Not so much from any  
special interest in the many  
important events that have  
transpired, or any advantage  
I might realize from noting  
them down as they passed,  
and thereby more indelibly  
fixing them on my memory,  
but because I would have  
thus left a record of passing  
events and what had taken  
place, more immediately in  
connection with myself, &  
that at some future day my  
dear wife would find pleasure  
in looking over this.  
Thought determines me  
for the future to write down,  
as far as practicable, with  
the close of each day, whatever

may have occurred profitable to be remembered or might be of interest to her, whom I trust God, in his mercy will protect and bless me with meeting at an early day.

Having been up till a late hour last night talking with Genl. Hamilton and Dr. Phillips, about the war, the prospects of peace and prosely speculating about the proposition to be made and the probability of its acceptance or rejection, without coming to any satisfactory conclusion I was a little late getting up this morning. A robin I saw too much given to find like to give some excuse to myself for, I rose a little before eight, but before I had finished dressing Mr. Smith knocked at my door to get me

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to accompany him to Genl. Conby's Headquarters to enquire after application he had made to be allowed to bring a large amount of stock cattle and other property belonging to him and other Union men within the Federal lines, and sell such as might be suitable to the Government. It was not yet 9, the commencement of office hours, nor had I taken breakfast. This was soon attended to and carrying a short time in my room, I proceeded with Mr. Smith to the General's Headquarters. He of course was not in being yet disabled by a gun shot wound some time since received on White River nor was his A. A. Genl. but being told he would be in a short time we sat down to await his arrival. In the course of half an hour the A. A. Genl., Genl. T. C. Christensen made

His appearance, and in a very  
courteous manner informed  
us that the Genl. had Mr. Smith  
suspect, and regarding the sub-  
ject an important one, was  
looking into it himself, and  
would likely refer the subject to  
General Hamilton. And for Mr.  
S. to call in the morning when  
he might be prepared to give  
him further information.  
This terminated our mission  
and we withdrew. Mr. Smith to  
took after other business about  
the City, I to my room, where I  
found Mr. Coffey awaiting  
me, desired to talk and  
did talk about his Trans-  
sore local special agent.  
The politics of people about  
Donelsonville where he is  
doing business and the great  
confidence he has to get on  
with his business, etc. I

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was well satisfied he was not the  
only one who had a hard time.  
Dinner at length arrived and gave  
relief. At table General Hamilton  
gave me in confidence a most  
feasible plan he had conceived  
to terminate the war, and almost as  
good to make plenty of money besides.  
This was to be accomplished by pur-  
chasing from Genl. C. Kirby Smith  
all the cotton in Transmississippi  
Department for U. S. Government, and  
pay for the same in money and sup-  
plies, on condition that Genl. S.  
would go to Mexico, whip out Max-  
imilian, and establish to Monroe  
doctrine. A free pardon to be extend-  
ed by the President of the U. S. to  
Genl. S. and all his army.  
This has been our subject of  
conversation this evening and  
Genl. H. grows zealous as he  
contemplates it, has heard  
that Mr. Alexander has received

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a letter from someone into  
making that such an arrange-  
ment would likely be accept-  
able to Genl. S.

Nice being weary of this idle  
speculation and wishing to  
meet some naval officers who  
were at Mrs. Tuttle's to ascertain  
the prospects and necessary  
steps to be taken to enable Miss  
Gibson to return to her  
home in Texas by way of  
Galveston. I went to Mrs. T's &  
have spent the evening there  
quite pleasantly. Mr. Darr, pay-  
master of the Navy there, there  
will be no difficulty if the Confed-  
erate authorities at Galveston  
will first consent that Miss  
Gibson & Nice may land  
there to get the Navy to take them  
over. Nice I must see to this  
in the morning and have  
the request made, as the

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ladies seem anxious to get  
off. Well it is now 12.6. m.  
so I will go to bed.

Thursday November 29/64

Rose this morning at 7 with  
a severe pain in my left temple.  
Breakfasted at 8. Soon Mr. Dun-  
can Smith appeared at my room  
to have me call again on Genl.  
Canby with him, not deeming  
I could be of any service and  
him alone, returned after an  
hour or two and seemed delighted  
to have learned his application  
had been thought favorably of  
and was referred to Genl. Herbert  
for further examination. In the  
meantime Mr. John H. Sibert,  
and Saml. H. Houston had  
arrived to witness a cotton  
operation, after a protracted  
conference entered into a con-  
tract with Mr. S. as S. H. Co. he was  
seeming to us for a money



ports beyond the Federal  
lines, for a very large amount  
of cotton to be brought in and  
sold in joint account etc.  
This is one of those almost in-  
giving transactions bearing  
a strong resemblance to gam-  
bling. I have but little confi-  
dence in it, but if it should be  
consummated nice yield in-  
crease results, however if it does  
not cost but little. Had a vis-  
itor Majors, Englewood and Hun-  
ner. The former just recovering  
from a severe illness; he is a  
very gentlemanly man, moral  
and of high sense of honor.  
The other I pass over for further  
acquaintance. The both re-  
mained to dinner. Mr. F. is  
quite pleasant at dinner &  
takes wine with some taste.  
Once on Mrs. Gibson and  
discuss her the character

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of letter proper for her to write to  
Commander of Confederate Mil-  
itary authorities, at Galveston to ob-  
tain permission to leave there  
from Federal blockading vessels,  
then to call on her for it in the  
morning.

Just returned from the meet-  
ing assembled at La Haye Lygon  
to celebrate re-election of Mr. Lincoln  
as president and the election of  
Andrew Johnson as Vice President  
of the U. S. Spoke numerous  
but in the main of moderate a-  
bility. Genl. Hamilton by far  
the superior but he made  
a poor effort. The assemblage  
was neither large or enthu-  
siastic, and appeared to be com-  
posed in great measure of the  
more humble members of so-  
ciety and negroes. The latter were  
evidently well pleased, as much  
likely, if not more, at finding

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Themselves parties to the celebra-  
tion, than the events commem-  
orated. The condition of the negro  
engaged a large share of attention,  
and each seemed to vie with the  
other in their gratification that  
the shackles had been struck  
from his limbs, and he was  
soon to become an educated,  
useful member of society.  
How striking is the contrast  
with four years ago. Then  
to oppose slavery was not toler-  
ated, and to favor the  
election of Mr. Lincoln or  
any one containing his  
sentiments to the presidency  
would have been deemed a  
crime. Now abolitionism  
is boasted a merit and  
Lincoln's election the sub-  
ject of rejoicing. There is  
much food for serious, gra-  
ved reflection for all who

really love the South, not the least  
is the low order of men, morally, so-  
cially and intellectually who occu-  
py places of authority and have  
control. But further reflection  
will be desired from now. It  
is passing midnight again, and  
I had intended to reform my  
habits in this particular.

Wednesday, Nov. 30th, '64

Called this morning on  
Miss Anne Gibson for her letters  
to Military Commander of Con-  
federate forces at Galveston, and  
to her brother to be allowed to land  
at Galveston. These letters hav-  
ing to pass through Commis-  
sioner Palmer with whom I am  
not acquainted it became im-  
portant to be suitably intro-  
duced to him, so I called at  
Genl. Canby's headquarters  
and obtained from Col. Chris-  
tensen a note of introduc-

12, introduction which he was  
pleased to make very com-  
plimentary. This even-  
ing the forepart of the day,  
the balance of the day has  
been consumed in hur-  
rying a few adventures all  
that they could do in the  
way of securing permits  
from Confederate author-  
ities to bring out cotton  
from all of which I think  
but little or nothing will  
result. I spent the morning  
pleasantly with Mr. Dokey,  
correspondent of the Lon-  
don Times and other papers,  
conversing on political  
subjects, and the probable  
course of Sherman and  
the results that may follow  
in Georgia. Also Henry  
Brown and Boyer were  
etc. etc.

REPRODUCED FROM THE  
HOLDINGS OF THE  
FLORIDA STATE ARCHIVES

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December 1st, 1864.

This, though the first day  
of winter is warm as May, with light  
rain this evening. Called this morn-  
ing on Commodore J. S. Palmer, to  
procure passage to Galveston for Miss  
Anne Gibson, his sister, Mrs. Conway  
and niece Miss Delia Jones. Found  
him bluff though being introduced  
by a note from Col. Christenine,  
Genl. Canby's A. A. Genl, was well  
received and treated very politely.  
He, I suppose <sup>could</sup> his readiness to serve  
me in any way he <sup>thought</sup> <sup>the</sup> ladies,  
after whose politics he enquired,  
had no claim on him as I could  
not vouch for the loyalty of any but  
Miss Jones, and as I had to tell  
him I had no interest in their  
going over apart from friend-  
ship towards them and the chance  
it would afford to communicate  
with my family and send them  
some little trinkets, he hardly

Thought I had sufficient interest to entitle the ladies to be carried over on black sailing vessel, but finally consented to send over letters for Miss G. one being to the Military Commissioner of Confederate forces, at Galveston, to obtain permission to land there, which if obtained the Commodore would send them over. Nothing of very special interest transpired to-day, and no news of importance from any quarter. A good deal of speculation about Sherman, some think he will march on Montgomery, Alabama, some that he will go to Savannah Georgia, some he will be successful and others confident he will be surrounded and his army destroyed. With most of this opinion I think the Irish is shared to the thought. It is my opinion he will

more through to Savannah, without serious difficulty. If he does not I shall feel he is not as efficient a general as I have regarded him. I see no reason to apprehend a failure if he moves with tolerable celerity. This campaign being successfully made, must be most damaging to the Rebellion, will divide again the Confederacy, and greatly diminish the chances of keeping up large armies. It is rumored, this evening that a considerable fleet has arrived in Mobile Bay. This would seem to indicate a march on Mobile. I can hardly think this will be done just now, unless for a diversion. In this point of view it might be advisable. It would relieve Timessee from Hood's threatened invasion. But it would seem that Genl. Thomas is abundantly able to resist Hood and any force he may be able to move with.

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 Friday, December 2nd, 1864,  
 The weather still con-  
 tinues warm and pleasant. This  
 has been an uneventful day,  
 though Andrew Horne arrived  
 this morning from Matamoros,  
 bringing general intelligence from  
 home as late as 20th ult. that noth-  
 ing unusual had occurred. It  
 is gratifying to hear this much, and  
 how thankful I shall be if any  
 unusual occurs before  
 I return. Received a letter from  
 Mr. White, gratified to hear  
 from him and learn there  
 is some prospect of his get-  
 ting something from the cotton  
 we were so imprudent as to send  
 out in the name of W. Kerner.  
 Rumor that Sherman has burnt  
 Macon and Millerville Ga.  
 I went to St. Charles Theater with  
 Miss L. and home, play to leave  
 only, but due & dreary to night.

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 Saturday, December 3rd, 1864  
 This morning Mr. Duncan Smith  
 called to tell me his application,  
 in which I have been trying to assist  
 him, to obtain some assistance  
 from the Military authorities to  
 bring his own and other refugees  
 stock & other property from the Wes-  
 tern coast of this state, within the  
 Federal lines, has failed; The mil-  
 itary commissary stating among  
 other reasons that they were getting  
 a plentiful supply of beef from the  
 Western States for the soldiers, that  
 these stock men of small size and  
 inferior kind that other objects  
 of more importance demanded  
 the services of the troops required  
 to give the necessary protection to  
 bring in this stock, that one specu-  
 lator in that direction had failed  
 &c. A thought seems to have been  
 given to the condition of these un-  
 fortunate Refugees, who, because



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They remain true to the Federal Government, have been driven from their homes of comfort and some of affluence, in state of great destitution and some with difficulty procure the bare necessities of life, and think themselves fortunate to obtain employment chopping wood in mud and water at rates barely sufficient to procure them the cheapest foreign clothing for their bodies. Men who have suffered imprisonment forced to lie for weeks concealed in the marshes to escape Rebel oppression, and daily suffer unutterable mental suffering from the terrible condition of their families held as prisoners by the Rebels, without sufficient food or clothing and subject to all the abuse and outrage of brutal soldiers, who are persuaded that to tyrannise over mist

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is meritorious. I listened to this old man tell his sufferings, and sacrifice, and the destitute and helpless condition he had been brought in his old age, till I almost felt death would be a blessing to all the helpless. Surely the Government ought, when practicable, to extend assistance to such of its citizens. To withhold it on the ground that their property is not needed, or can be gotten on without is not the treatment they deserve. The manifestation of such indifference by those in authority may well chill the heart and give us pause. For who of the South do they care? Ah secession bitter are thy fruits and we have but just commenced to pluck from that pestilent tree. The weather has grown cool with rain. No news of importance. Sherman seems moving on with but little opposition thus far

20 Sunday, Decr, 24th, 1864.  
This day has been  
I regret to say been unprofitable.  
Spent at an early hour. Ref.  
Agrees appearance about the ho-  
tel, and several come into my  
room, and seem to feel a sad  
sort of pleasure in talking over  
their trials, hardships and  
wrongs. Some of these trials are  
really heart rending. Poor crea-  
ture, prompted by the noblest  
sentiments of patriotism,  
They have yielded all their  
estates to the cause of their  
country and now when they  
are forced to beg for any kind  
of labor that will bring them  
bread from day to day, but  
little consideration is shown  
them by the authorities repre-  
senting that government they  
have clung to with such un-  
flinching fidelity. Some murmur

at the want of consideration by  
the officers, but no censure is heard  
against the Government and each  
seems sustained by the belief that  
the preservation of that Government  
will repay posterity, if they may not  
survive the contest, for every sacri-  
fice, these visits occupy all the  
forenoon, so that I did not attend  
church as I intended. This evening  
I called to see my sick friend Mr.  
C., found him much improved,  
talking about me in good spirits.  
Returned to my room, read Harper's  
Magazine, newspapers & till now  
bed time. Well what has to-morrow  
morning in store? Many an anx-  
ious mind asks the same question  
as he retires to night; for some-  
thing definite is expected on the  
subject of the cotton trade. I do not  
think it will be opened. I do not  
see how such a trade can be carried  
on with the war being waged as it is.

Q. Monday, December 5.  
Telle this morning after  
mail was distributed it was  
found that no definite in-  
formation had been received  
about the trade in cotton, but  
several letters ascertaining  
most confidently that the  
trade would be opened and  
that another week would bring  
the necessary orders to that  
effect. But I still doubt, and  
think I will see the thing is  
done practically. It would  
be singular now first at the  
meeting of Congress after so long  
delaying action if the Presi-  
dent should determine to is-  
sue such orders, are neces-  
sary to carry on such a trade.  
Met with several members of  
the State Legislature under the  
new Government. I have not  
been about the body, but

being invited I think I need do  
so shortly. It occurs to me there is  
not much talent in any branch of  
the new Government. Best return  
we from the St. Charles Theater, saw  
Hamlet by Mr. Caddy. He seemed to  
have a fair conception of the char-  
acter, but his voice is deficient in  
force and compass for so heavy  
tragedy, though made the play quite  
bearable.

Tuesday, December 6th,  
Commenced by  
writing a long letter to Genl. Hurl,  
but on behalf of some Refugees, in  
the name of Mr. D. S., representing  
the helplessness and destitute condi-  
tion they are in. The orders of the  
Rebel Genl. Beauregard forbidding  
any one to succor them with  
shelter, food or clothing are pro-  
hibiting them from coming  
within the Union lines as if  
the purpose were to guarantee their

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certain deaths by the slow  
torture of starving and exposure  
unto the inclemency of the  
beginning winter. What mon-  
strous cruelty towards helpless  
women and children for no  
other offense than their hus-  
bands since fathers have ad-  
vance to the United States as  
the government of their choice,  
in preference to that prom-  
ised through the agency of se-  
cession. Comment would  
bring up some things too pain-  
ful to contemplate. Then on my  
ever pipe and cheer. May God  
watch over and protect them.

Then we converse with  
Col. C. A. W. on subject trade,  
seems confident it is to be  
opened at an early day was in  
fine spirits. Wrote to Judge  
P. on same subject and request-  
ed an answer as to amount

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contracted for by him and Mr. O.  
how situated &c.

Just returned from Vanities  
Theater, San Antonio III. by Daily,  
presenter it better than I ex-  
pective, though I suppose greatly  
beneath the excellence attained  
by famous actors. It is, so far as I  
have heard, his first attempt, and  
I think he gives promise of mak-  
ing some character in it if repeated.

Wednesday, Dec. 7.

Today the Special  
agent appointed to purchase cotton  
on Government account announ-  
ced to a few favorites that he was now  
authorized to issue permits to  
bring cotton through the Feder-  
al lines. The result has been very  
great activity among the favorites  
to make contracts with and send  
their agents to procure cotton.  
This has been sufficient to  
take up all the time this day.

26 *Thursday, December 8,*  
The same business of  
yesterday in the same way has  
been kept up all day. It is a  
little remarkable that through  
those in the confidence of the  
Agent, with their agents' consent  
to write a number, the secret has  
been kept for two days. A com-  
mon desire to make the most of  
the advantage seems to restrain  
the tongues of all. And yet I  
shall be disappointed if these  
operations are not to a great  
extent. The military have not  
spoken, and I doubt not the  
silence will be broken at an  
early day, by the publication  
of a series of regulations on  
the subject of travel that will  
be most difficult, if not im-  
possible in many instances,  
to comply with. To-morrow will  
be apt to give some light on this point.

27 *Friday, December 9th,*  
This morning, about 10,  
Mr. D. S. entered my room in a most bur-  
riva manner, exclaiming in an almost  
frantic voice his family had come. His  
joy seemed almost to overcome him,  
so much that I did not really under-  
stand him but as he rushed up hand-  
ed me a telegram announcing the  
fact to him. I have never witnessed  
more overpowering manifestations of  
joy than this news seemed to give him.  
He seemed for a time quite unable to  
express his feeling, and it was really  
touching to see the tears of joy, trickle  
down his old, weather-beaten face.  
From my heart I rejoiced with  
him, and wished I could meet my  
dear family. The accounts I have do  
not place mine in the helpless and  
destitute condition he supposes  
his to be yet I do not know what may  
befall them before I rejoin them. It  
may be worse even than this position.



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main for it seems they have not  
been so cruelly treated as represented,  
though subjected to very great hard-  
ship and suffering from sick-  
ness and exposure incident to their  
condition, but they say the Rebel  
soldiers in the main have been  
respectful to them. I am glad to  
hear this reputation of the revolting  
accounts given by the deserters, Nor-  
wood. How few of these deserters are to  
be trusted! They nearly all seem to  
think that by reporting some tale of  
horror and great barbarity on the  
part of the Rebels, they will obtain for  
themselves special consideration  
and may be favored with a paying place.

H. C. P. Co. concluded a con-  
tract for 20,000 bales of cotton to be  
delivered at a certain place, & all  
this on the part of the other party, I  
think, he will have to obtain the con-  
sent of the local authorities, a thing  
very doubtful, he shall see.

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Saturday, December 10th,  
What a dreary cheerless  
day this has been! I have been out  
of the hotel but once, that late this eve-  
ning, have felt badly all day, not to  
say sick, but a heavy, aking feeling  
in my limbs and head, some fever  
with slight pain in the bowels. Have  
taken a good long walk and a fine bet-  
ter. Call a few minutes in the lady's  
parlor with Mr. T. and Mrs. Campbell.  
I learn her husband is lost in the San-  
Antonio of an Lowry, Regt. I believe.  
She seems a refined, cultivated lady,  
said to have fine musical talent, talks  
pleasantly, but seems sad and pen-  
sive, pleasant but not a handsome  
face, she has been brought up in this  
city, though I do not know her  
maiden name. Think she at this  
time has no relatives here. Why has  
she come here? Probably, induced  
by that strong attachment to her  
father who resides long in this city.

31 Sunday, December 11th.  
I should say Capt. Loring  
who was a prisoner, Texas troops  
last June at Calcasieu river where  
he was in command of the tin-  
clad gun boat More. which with  
the crew and another gun boat  
were crew members captured.  
The prisoners were all taken to  
Texas, have been retained there  
since Capt. L. says he effected  
his escape 13th Sept. he met them  
alone with one other man, a  
Lieutenant from Indiana and  
reached this place on the 10th inst.  
They traveled most of the way in  
the night, concealing themselves  
by day except when from some  
camp or meeting place  
federal troops they were both  
dressed in old grey clothes, and  
represented themselves as rebel  
soldiers returning to their  
homes in Louisiana to procure

horse to remount themselves and  
join their Regt. en route to Arkansas.  
They stopped at best few houses, subsist-  
ing principally on parched corn, were  
not interrupted but were several times  
in imminent danger. They traveled the  
entire distance, near 400 miles on  
foot and seemed suffering very  
much from sore feet. Their clothes  
were much worn, quite in rags,  
and altogether presented a bare  
unsightly appearance. Representing the  
prisoners as tolerably well, some  
for the while, those who are some-  
fortunate, to be sick for long,  
frequently for want of medicines  
of which the Rebels have a poor sup-  
ply, and sometimes difficult to ob-  
tain the services of a physician  
besides more of the delicate  
nourishment. The sick need  
are to be had. I understand  
this is the third time this in-  
famous little Bostonian made

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his escape, being twice recaptured, and punished by close confinement for the attempts, but no way discouraged by his failures, he continues his exertions and success. Resolved that he will enter at once on his duty as Capt. of the Monitor, Dictator. He is a small man, I should think not above five feet seven inches, a symmetrical, well set, light, sinewy and tough looking complexion, eyes and hair dark, the latter a little streaked with grey, being I would think forty two or three years old. He is regarded as an efficient and brave officer. ~~He is~~ <sup>He is</sup> ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> Genl. Cameron was with him and both having their umbrellas taken to send their home friends. The Capt. and Lieut. had their, taken in their traveling at time, I saw but little of Genl. C.

Monday, Decr, 12th, 67  
The news from Genl. Sherman's day is very favorable. It is pretty certain he has entered Savannah without serious loss to his army. Being in this favorable position to secure the cooperation of the Navy, with his army joining in any heavy battle, any mention at will from the negroes in the country, who can be made immediately available to him for laborers, etc, if unfit for the fighting part of a soldier's duty, all combine to give him a most advantageous position to move on Charleston. If not in that direction he may turn back on Georgia and do great damage by burning cities, towns and property, general destroying railroads, and liberating negroes. All of this I regard this more for more encouraging to the Rebel, than

25  
 Every thing that has occurred  
 since the fall of Vicksburg,  
 and must if judicious use  
 be made of the advantage  
 thus obtained, soon result  
 in placing it beyond the power  
 of the Rebels to keep a large ar-  
 my together for any great length  
 of time. The fight at Franklin,  
 Tenn. certainly resulted to the  
 prejudice of Hove, and it  
 would seem if Thomas has  
 the reinforcements represented  
 that it will be most hazard-  
 ous for him to risk a battle  
 before he is well supplied with  
 the most fight or leave, he  
 can not stay where he  
 is for more than a few days  
 and then to fight and be  
 defeated will make it  
 most difficult for him to  
 get out of Tenn. if Thomas is  
 prepared to follow him.

Thursday, December 13,  
 The events of to-day are so  
 like those of yesterday that I  
 have little inclination to en-  
 ter them, or make any com-  
 ments about them. There is not  
 any question from the army,  
 which is deemed a fortunate  
 indication since the Rebels  
 would likely know if any dis-  
 aster had befallen him, &  
 certainly would not with-  
 hold it. Some think Hove  
 will flank Nashville and  
 try to get into Kentucky. He may  
 make the attempt, but I don't  
 think he will succeed. As soon  
 to me that Thomas ought to  
 be able to inflict serious in-  
 jury on him should he  
 think expose himself. The  
 effort will disclose great  
 weakness, and a future  
 danger to the army.

Thursday, Dec. 18th.

To-day I have not done much else than talk to the newly arrived refugee families of every thing and every body in Texas. From them I learn of many changes of persons and things, generally, I think, for the better. They tell me all the worst marshals, except at places under military occupation, are done away with. This is gratifying news and shows to my mind a spirit of moderation and disposition to respect the rights of the citizen more than has been done for a great while. This is an office peculiar to an American, and a surprise to cause discontent when exercised over the citizen. It is a legitimate offshoot of arbitrary power, and is always a curse, because the judiciary

jurisdiction exercised is not limited by any fixed or established rules, but is left in many instances to the discretion of the officer, and like all such power liable to be abused by the vicious or ignorant.

Friday, December 16th,

To-day has been a busy day. I have written a long letter to Mr. White and one to Thos. H. McRimney. The former on business mainly, the other in reply to one from him. I designed it should be conciliatory for I felt so towards him. He has befriended me when I needed it. It may not have been altogether disinterested, but it was both grateful and beneficial to me. But I did not omit to remind him of his injustice finally. Policy would have concealed this but candor demanded



27 Wednesday, Decr, 14th, 1864  
To my dear, Genl. Hamilton,  
Judge Pease; and Col. Sturges;  
families arrived from Texas  
via Galveston, crossing the  
Gulf on Government trans-  
ports, having left Austin, as  
late as 4th inst. I received  
no letter by them, in this  
I was sadly disappointed,  
but it was most gratifying  
to hear so kind and warm  
ly from my family and learn  
they were well, except Edwin  
states to have been suffer-  
ing from some affection  
of his throat, but pronounced  
by the Doctor to be nothing  
serious, and great it may  
turn out. These ladies  
are somewhat representa-  
tive of the public mind as  
much more tolerant than  
at any time since the war

begin towards Unionists  
and much less disposition  
to oppression and lawless violence,  
they speak of some who but recent-  
ly were most ultra secessionists  
as disposed to take about re-  
construction of the Union,  
and that every body is tired of  
the war, and desirous of peace. How  
freshly and pleasantly too does  
the arrival of these families  
bring to view the conviction of  
my own, and best the most  
intense desire to have them  
with me, but this I can not  
do, and I am forced to sub-  
mit to my banishment. I am  
sustained by the hope that a  
few more weary months  
will bring us together, un-  
der such circumstances  
as will enable me to remain  
in safety with my dear  
wife and child. God grant it.

utterance. I have seen two or three men who represent that they have control of cotton and desire the cooperation of some one here to get it to market. I have made and think I will not make any contract with them. I have little confidence that I could do any good in this business. I have not money sufficient myself. Besides there are so many unscrupulous men ready to engage in this business, and such an amount of machinery thrown around it that I am disposed to think villainy will reap the greater portion of the harvest. I have never made anything that way, and am determined not to try it. Poverty is better than loss of self respect.

Saturday, Decr, 17th, 1864

To-day has passed most unprofitably away. Talked a good deal with several persons, got no news from the war. And the time seems to have glided away without leaving a trace behind.

Sunday, Decr, 18th,

Drease this morning for church. Lewis Tyson called as I was about starting, his eyes were red, and looked as if he had been weeping. Think he has, since his mother desired I would come up and see her. That an officer had been to their house to seize it for military purposes and that his parents were much distressed and knew not what to do. Well I went up and have spent the day there since with the Doctor. Am

heard from him a free state-  
 ment of his course of conduct  
 since the war. The petty personal dif-  
 ferences he has had, mostly politi-  
 cal, some professional, and re-  
 sulting in exciting a feeling  
 of resentment towards him  
 by such men as would take  
 advantage of the disposition  
 of many of the military to  
 oppress all of doubtful loy-  
 alty, especially where there is a  
 prospect of plunder. It is quite  
 certain that these personal en-  
 mies, being intolerant, bigoted &  
 will dispose have instigated  
 the proceeding against him,  
 and they find ready abettors  
 in the officers, applied to since  
 he has a desirable residence &  
 will furnish, well to-mor-  
 row I will try to see Genl.  
 Herbut and bring the mat-  
 ter before him.

Monday, Decr, 19, 1864  
 Commenced this morn-  
 ing by writing a letter to Genl. Hurl-  
 but stating pretty fully, & laying out  
 the proceeding against his property, his  
 course of conduct since the war  
 begun, his professional character.  
 Being frequently interrupted the  
 morning was pretty well passed be-  
 fore I got away from my room.  
 Went first to Provost Marshal's of-  
 fice, he pretended to know nothing  
 about the proceeding, had no re-  
 collection of signing any order for  
 the seizure, might have done so, as  
 it was impossible for him to read  
 the papers he signed. He may have  
 told the truth, think he did, said  
 he would take no further ac-  
 tion till to-morrow and would  
 see me at his residence at 8 in  
 the morning. Not being satisfied  
 with this I went to Genl. H's head-  
 quarters, met there Mrs. Richardson

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On the same evening as myself  
and most intensely interested.  
The Genl. being absent she, Maj.  
Dana and myself entered into  
conversation for a half hour or  
more. I made her a very nice  
informed of strong, nervous  
will, of a lively, lofty imagination.  
I was a great energy and  
of course a great talker. When  
the Genl. returned I stated to  
the Maj. my wish to see him  
concerning my business, and was  
told the subject had been  
brought to the Genl's notice  
and that he had already act-  
ed on it and made the state-  
ment in such a way that I  
felt confident it was as I de-  
sired. And having no other  
business with him my request  
for an interview. And Mrs.  
R. having another mission  
of humanity on hand for

Some one imprisoned, who she  
understood was to be tried before  
a military commission of which  
Genl. Roberts was president and as I  
happened to be acquainted with  
him and she now I was a great in-  
terest to her service to extent of going to his  
quarters and introducing her. This  
of course I did, and listened  
with considerable interest to  
her conversation, approaching  
as she did in very diplomatic  
style the object of her visit. Some  
of her approaches were really im-  
pious, and her presentation of the  
facts showing the domestic con-  
dition of the prisoner and de-  
serving sympathy of the humane  
was well, almost eloquently  
done. From this I returned to  
my hotel and took a dinner in  
good spirits. In the evening  
I went to J. P. Ayson's and re-  
ported the result of my efforts.

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And giving it as my confident belief that the proceeding had been arrested by the Genl, and that there would be no further trouble. In this belief I returned to my room, feeling gratified that a good man & his family were happy in being allowed to say at home in peace, and enjoy together their home and property. But while I write this down, I feel most keenly my time, separated as I am, for an indefinite time from my loved wife and child and pleasant home, and what their condition may be this night I know not. Oh God shield and protect them from all harm and let me join them again in love, peace and quiet with them. I pray, Amen.

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Tuesday, Decr 20th, 1864  
Call at 1/2 past eight this morning on Col. Roberson, Provost Marshal, merely to keep my appointment and improve my acquaintance with him. Information of the advance that had been made in the seizure of Dr. Ayson's property, & that being before the Genl, it was before his control; but proceeded to state some of the reasons why I thought it ought not to be done. He was an empty, heated, self-inflated, supercilious creature, static, with quite an air ~~him~~, on being informed that Dr. A. had not taken the oath required by Genl. Butler, that he had no sympathy for such and he could do nothing for me. I replied I was aware of that fact, before calling & had merely come to keep my appointment. I would have to look to others to



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in authority. I do not think he  
knew this remark. It may be my  
manner was not pleasant, or the  
allusion to any one being higher  
in authority than he may have  
been unpleasant to him.

Returned to my room and  
was engaged with Dr. P. reform-  
ing some articles of agreement  
when Lewis Lyson appeared  
and in a hurried manner  
stated his mother desired I  
would come up there at once  
that an officer was there  
with an order from Genl  
H. to take the house. This was  
most unexpected disagree-  
able, sent him home with  
a message I would be up  
soon complete business  
on hand and went up  
to find Mrs. A in great  
distress and perplexity. The  
Dr. absent visiting his patients

(41)

and a guard already stationed  
at the door to see that nothing was  
taken from the house. Looked at  
the order of seizure found it sign-  
ed by Capt. Constable, A. J. M. as by  
order of Genl. H. to be for military  
purposes and that it must be re-  
voked within three days. I offered  
what of consolation I could &  
endeavored to encourage her  
to meet the trial with fortitude  
and resignation. Soon the Dr.  
came in and received the in-  
telligence with great coolness  
indeed, but from his conver-  
sation evidently felt the blow  
severely. He seemed already to  
have determined on the course  
he would take and requested  
after a few minutes conversa-  
tion I would try and get a pas-  
port for himself and family for  
Texas to go by next transport &  
to learn what of his personal effects

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 He would be allowed to move.  
 On this mission, and to get the  
 time fixed for him to vacate his  
 home extension, so as to enable him  
 to provide a place to take his family to,  
 I left. On my way I was accosted  
 by J. A. C. Rogers Esq. whom I was  
 about passing without observing.  
 He greeted me cordially and asked  
 why I had not been to see him.  
 After such apologies as I could  
 offer, I explained to him my  
 business, and he being a  
 gentleman with Genl. H., re-  
 gretted he would accom-  
 pany me, which he readily  
 consented to do. Without  
 much delay, we obtained ad-  
 mission to the Genl's presence  
 and made known the object  
 of our visit. He expressed aston-  
 ishment, and showed a note  
 from Capt. Constable represent-  
 ing the seizure to be other property

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 This seemed to have been written in  
 response to an inquiry. As occasion  
 that the seizure had been made I hand-  
 ed him the order on which with great  
 promptness he wrote an order to  
 suspend further proceedings and  
 to report the cause of the seizure to him.  
 This I regarded a most fortunate  
 turn in the business, in fact Mr. R.  
 and myself understood it as intend-  
 ed to mean that the Dr's property would  
 not be taken from him, and I hasten-  
 ed to bear the good news to him and  
 his distressed family. I found him  
 in his library, the fairy gown and  
 slippers on with a book in his hand  
 as if he had been reading. Mrs. A.  
 came in immediately and I com-  
 municated the result to her un-  
 utterable joy and the Dr's great  
 gratification. They both expressed  
 their thanks to me for the service  
 I had rendered, and I left feeling  
 happy in the conviction I had

rendered a service to those truly  
worthy of it. I returned to the Ho-  
tel in time to find Dr. P. at din-  
ner. He had been out till later  
than usual in conference with  
Messrs. W. H. on business and to fix  
the terms of co-operation with them  
in getting in cotton. He was evidently  
in bad humor and had been  
disappointed in his expectations.  
For when his friend, in whom  
he had so much confidence had  
refused when brought to the test  
to sign the contract I have sus-  
pected as much and caused him  
to take the step that he might be  
enabled to know just what to  
depend on. This is but another  
instance showing the impor-  
tance of having all matters  
of business definitely under-  
stood at the beginning and put  
in binding form.

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1861

I was aroused from my last  
couch this morning by the rap at  
my room door of Lewis Ayson,  
to inform me that the guards were  
still in possession of their house  
and that his mother requested I  
would come up then. I sent him  
back with a message to his mother  
that I would be up soon.  
After breakfast I went to Quar-  
termaster's office and asked  
why the guard was not taken  
away. Asst. Capt. C. gruffly  
indisposed to talk much, said  
it was not intended by Genl H's  
order that they should be relieved.  
I replied I understood the Genl's  
order differently and would  
go and see him. Did so, found  
I understood him correctly &  
he said the Capt. was so too. He  
gave me an order to the Capt  
to relieve the guard at once.

This Order I delivered in person when the Capt. became very polite and full of explanation of former practices, but ordered the grange relieved. In a short time I went to the Dr's and found the grange just leaving, to the no little gratification of the Dr & family, especially Mrs. A. soon. The Dr. requested I would go with him to-morrow to see Genl. H. that he might renew his acquaintance with and thank <sup>him</sup> for permitting him to retain his own property. How strange such a proceeding seems in this country where so long private property have perfect protection under the law ~~and~~ it is as safe as strong. But I will not stop here to comment on the change or the causes that led to it. Nothing of note occurred during the remainder of the day.

Thursday, Decr. 22nd, 1864

The forepart of to-day I have busied myself looking into contemplated operations, and to procuring an interview for Dr. P. with some capitalists, with who he desires to make money arrangements, to carry on his cotton contracts, i.e. should any cotton ever come, of which I have cause to doubt. At past two P.M. called with Dr. A. on Genl. H. and introduced him. The Genl. exhibited some emotion, more far than I expected. They talked for some time of bay-hove days, the members of their respective families and early acquaintances, the living and the dead. The Dr. thanked in a very dignified but cordial manner the Genl. for the release of his property. The Genl. replied of course he was under no obligation he had put down his justice that would

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debate. He then alluded to a statement made by the Dr. which he said he had seen hurriedly spoke freely and unreservedly of the Dr. position, told he was wrong, did not controvert the correctness of his view of the Constitution of the U.S. but said that was not the question now. The Constitution contained no such state of things as we found existing. That since the laws have no existence here as rules of action, the authority was all military and whatever civil power was exercised was merely permitted by the military. He had the power to stop that should be deemed it expedient to do so, to have a man taken and stop, and yet there was no provision for the exercise of such authority in the Constitution etc. But that these powers were exercised from the necessity of the condition we were in.

48

Friday, Decr, 23rd, 1864

Have taken up the day with air castles, mostly constructed of cotton. Had a long conversation with Mr. C. on the subject. He thinks much may be done. It is possible, and I doubt not will be by certain parties, such as persons in favor of the military authorities, that may have control, this can not be done without paying for it. This is bribery, and no plea of necessity to buy mine relieves it from the taint of turpitude that a correct morality must ever attach to that crime. I will have nothing to do with it. An honest penny is worth more than a dishonest penny.

Yesterday Dr. Pastore one of his cotton buyers, as he thought up the river, but this evening he <sup>called</sup> in, to say he was arrested on the boat just before starting by some of the military detectives, and imprisoned last night.



49 Saturday, Decr. 24. 1864.  
 Nothing of special interest  
 has occurred to day, except  
 further developments con-  
 nected with the arrest of Mr.  
 W. Dr. P. man he started to  
 purchase cotton. It is pretty  
 clear it was done, if not at  
 the instance, it was by the pro-  
 curement of Mr. C. H. W. The  
 man Dr. P. was, or thought he  
 was acting with in the busi-  
 ness and who was to furnish  
 what money might be needed  
 and have a part of the profits.  
 But the supposition is, some  
 pretty well sustained by the  
 facts too, that W. and some  
 one else have made another  
 agreement for cotton to be  
 purchased in the same sec-  
 tion of country which would  
 be more profitable than the  
 contract made by the Dr. as

Mr. under his contract would  
 have all the profits, instead of  
 half, and to keep the Dr. man  
 out of the way, Mr. W. had him  
 arrested and imprisoned. A  
 more unrelieved instance of  
 perfidy is not often met with,  
 besides being the most uncom-  
 table folly and short sightedness.  
 It seems that Mr. W. has been  
 guilty of a good many irregulari-  
 ties in trading many of which  
 are known to the Dr. and as this  
 matter will have to our investi-  
 gation it is likely much may be  
 brought to light prejudicial to  
 Mr. W. and may prove very in-  
 jurious to his business prospects.  
 Another among many instances  
 I have known when bad faith seem-  
 ed to bring quick retribution on  
 the culprit. A moment's reflection  
 ought to have shown Mr. W. he was  
 playing a dangerous and a wicked part.

Sunday Decr 25. /64

Christmas day! how many  
fancies but scarce memories, come  
up with this day. All along, like  
the present, it has been a day of  
greater or less joy and gladness.  
It is now one of heavy, painful  
gloom. The image of <sup>my</sup> dear son  
is constantly before me, with all  
his hearty joy over the little pres-  
ents he has been wont to expect  
and receive on this day. And  
there too stands his poor, poor  
mother, her gentle eyes beaming  
full with love and delight over  
the happiness of her child. While  
mirth and gladness gave to life a  
new zest for all, as we gathered a-  
round the gleaming board, with friends  
and relatives, in festive com-  
memoration of this natal day  
of him whose mission was  
peace and good will to man.  
But I am not allowed to observe

This Christian holiday, with  
that little family, around our  
humble hearth; and without them  
what is life to me, or the joy this world  
can bring. They are useless, naught in  
comparison. I know not their con-  
dition, if it may be for worse than  
my own, but I trust not. If I could  
but know they were well and un-  
disturbed by the poor, wicked  
followers of those who have brought  
so much misery and ruin on  
the country, I could feel com-  
paratively reconciled to my pres-  
ent fate, in the hope that I will  
meet them again in many  
months, have passed away. God  
grant me this boon. Dr. P. and  
I dined today with Dr. H. & family.  
Dinner on Trip 4, and one or two  
others, passed but a short time with  
either, and returned to my room  
where I have spent most of  
the evening.

53  
Monroe, Decr, 26, - 1864

This has been another  
irksome day, no business is  
doing and the past times of  
others give me no pleasure, I  
shall be glad when the holidays  
are over. Have been trying to  
read Spencer's "American  
Union", an English view of the  
causes which led to secession.  
It is far more liberal and in-  
telligent, than any work on  
American affairs, by any Eng-  
lishman. It is decidedly South-  
ern, quite disposed to apologize  
for the institution of slavery, and  
really shows very accurate  
conception of the institution.  
Strongly rebukes the intermeddling  
of the North, attributes that and  
all else back to the Democratic  
infatuation of the American  
Government. Exhibits much  
thought and most acute

understanding on this sub-  
ject, professing, as most English-  
men do, the ultimate failure  
of our system of government  
from this cause. I can not be-  
lieve there is great merit in the ob-  
jections taken and believe, if the  
tendency to leveling everything to the  
ground is not arrested that most  
disastrous results may follow.  
But I hope much improvement  
when the war shall have ended and  
civil jurisdiction reestablished  
we.

Tuesday Decr 27th, 1864

The news from the armies  
of Tennessee, and from Georgia  
is highly satisfactory. It is certain  
that Thomas has defeated Hood  
before Nashville with great loss  
to the latter of both men and arms.  
It would seem Hood's loss must  
be near twelve thousand men, if so,  
it is not likely he will be able to

assume the offensive again this winter. Sherman has now effected a connection with the land and naval forces on the Atlantic, and though he has not yet, so far as we know, taken Savannah he has invested it, and its fall can not be long delayed. This good news has several additions of like character from Eastern & N. Carolina. But to my mind, the most inspiring feature is the call for three hundred thousand more men. With this additional force in the field I do not think the war would last many months, not many weeks, that is, not in its present form; but when law and order and quiet are to be restored, I know not, fear not for many long, weary days after this occurs.

28

Thursday, Decr. 27, 1864

Nothing of note has transpired to day. Much of the time has been spent in discussing the results of recent Federal victories, talking about trade regulations and the chances of doing any thing in the cotton business. I have heard so much of this air castle building that I have grown weary of it, and sometimes wish I could not hear it named again. I have never had any confidence that it could be relied on, that is, as an honest, legitimate business, and, therefore not for me to bother with.

Wednesday Decr. 28.

I have always had a partiality for uniformity in most things, but the life of a loafer, or a Texas Refugee without business, which is about the same thing, has a uniformity that is becoming not only tiresome but disgusting.

Thursday, Decr. 29.

Tell my old friend Eben-  
 ezer Smith propose to me to-day  
 if I would furnish money to pur-  
 chase the tools and some small  
 amount, to meet the expenses of  
 getting to work. That he would  
 hire some hands, procure the  
 timber superintend the busi-  
 ness or have it done, and go to mak-  
 ing shingles on an extensive  
 scale. The amount he thinks will  
 not exceed three hundred dol-  
 lars, and that he and I will  
 share the profits equally. Well  
 this looks like a small busi-  
 ness, but if the shingles can be  
 made, as cheaply, as he thinks, &  
 there is ready market for them  
 at the selling prices, it will pay  
 something enough to cover my  
 expenses; and that is an impor-  
 tant consideration; for dispite  
 all the economy I can use

I am constantly spending money,  
 not for anything I see or get for my-  
 self, but there is a constant drain on  
 me by the Texans here in destitution.  
 It is hard to refuse those who have no  
 means or employment, and yet I shall  
 be in that condition in a short time,  
 at present rates of wages, as it is pos-  
 sibly called. Besides Smith is a Refu-  
 gee, destitute and has a large and  
 helpless family, very energetic and  
 I think honest, and a little aid to  
 him now may be of great service to  
 him. From these considerations  
 I conclude to go in with him and  
 furnish the money, have let him  
 have one hundred dollars to day  
 to go and look out a place and  
 get timber. If the business proves as  
 profitable as it at present promises  
 it is the understanding that I will  
 get a schooner and ship to Matamoras,  
 shingles, boards, wagon timber  
 &c. If it fail I lose my money of course.



Friday Decr. 30.

Called to day on Mr. E. found him in low spirits and still feeble health. He begins to think pretty nearly as I do about the practicality of doing any good getting cotton through the line. Had a good long talk with Mr. G. a man who has traveled a great deal in this country and over much of Europe, a shrewd, active observing thinker, a bold, enterprising trader, far more liberal in his views and of more enlarged feelings than is usually met with from any section. Has been over most of the Pacific Coast, spent several years in California and for the last few years has been concerned in working a silver mine in Chihuahua which has paid well and he thinks will be of great value, But, as he is growing

old, has already a large fortune, and but one child, a son grown, it disposes to see out his interest. He speaks very favorably of the upper and central parts of the State of Sonora so for growing cotton, climate and climate favorable except the drought, but thinks irrigation for large amounts of land very practicable from three rivers that pass through this great plain, and the Indians he says work well and can be procured at \$8 per month. There is no frost and the cotton plant does very well for three years, when it becomes too nearly a tree, and ceases to bear many bolls.

Saturday, Decr 31st.

This day has been too much like many others to merit notice, so far as I am concerned. Though the people throng the streets, and many seem to contemplate a joyous to day on tomorrow.

Ch.

Sunday, January 1865

This day twelve months ago I was in the town of Bastrop, Texas, the weather was intensely cold, so I did not start for home till about eleven o'clock. But then I came go home, and for the gratification of being then faced the chilling winds, how gladly would I encounter the storms and tempests of heaven now to rejoin my poor wife and child. But the war of men is worse than all the combined fury of the elements, and I ~~must~~ <sup>am</sup> here, almost as inactive as a fossil, and suffer the keenest sensibilities of a man, helpless and separated from all that is dear to him in this life, and for how long. I only know, It were better not to brood over this trouble, but how can human nature do otherwise. He who can be separated

for an indefinite time from home, country and friends, and be able to partake in spirit of the festivities of these holidays is more or less than man. Some of my neighbors herein situation similar to my own would not like to see this. Dr. P. succeeded in getting Mr. H., the man who undertakes to procure and deliver 20,000 bales of cotton, started to day. If he gets through without further detention he may be home from in a month or six weeks, if he is home from, at all, with any cotton to deliver. I shall be disappointed. I call this evening a few friends, or rather acquaintances, and among them Mrs. G. from New York, who has been quite kindly disposed towards me. She is a very intelligent lady, and give me some interesting items as to the customs of the old citizens of her

63  
state in the observance of this day  
Among others, the custom, still  
observed, by a few, of carrying their  
New Year cake with them when they  
call on their friends, and eating  
that rather than their friends' cake.  
This cake is called by them "cooker  
cake", is ordinary sweet cake of  
flour, only peculiar in form,  
being, in square bars, five or six  
inches long, an inch and a half  
or two inches in diameter.

Monday, May, 1st.

The forepart of the day I  
called on J. A. Rozier Esq.  
found him very courteous and  
civil, spent some time with  
him, talked some of law, govern-  
ment, mostly of politics and the  
condition of the country. He  
has a clear conception of the  
situation we are in and depre-  
cates it deeply, disapproves the  
plan being pursued. Thinks a

a more conciliatory course  
would be for better, towards all dis-  
posed to return to the Union, but not  
to relax in the prosecution of the  
war. Borrowed a book of him, which  
he loaned very cheerfully, as also tendered  
me the use of his library and office,  
and urged I would call on his fam-  
ily. Commenced studying the form  
of a bill to present to the Legislature  
to get a company organized to con-  
struct a canal from Vermillion  
Bay to Sabine river. This evening  
called on Capt. Hook of the Navy  
and his family, having been invited  
then, this being their evening to re-  
ceive their friends, for New Year.  
The refreshments were abundant  
and good, and served in plates  
beside the guests in their seats  
about the parlor. Spent the eve-  
ning as pleasantly as I expected,  
may be more so, but what <sup>are</sup> my  
wifely duties doing to night?

65  
Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1865.

To-day Mr. D. S. re-  
turned from his search for timber,  
has procured a good supply near  
the Apollousa R. R. at reasonable  
rates, and timber can be obtained  
at a sufficient number at cheaper  
rates than he expected, and al-  
together is in good spirits. I have  
spent most of the day working  
on the Bill to incorporate the  
Louisiana & Texas Canal Compa-  
ny." will complete it to-morrow.

Wednesday June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Completed my Bill  
for a Canal, submitted to Mr.  
G. M. B., he is much pleased  
with it, and thinks the enterprise  
a good one, will pay well if it  
can be passed by the Legislature,  
and is anxious to go into it, as  
a party, but it is probably better  
he should, he is a correct man,  
very reliable & has influence.

Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1865

This morning learned Mr.  
D. S. 120¢ more to complete pro-  
use of tools and make his disposi-  
tions to get to work, he is anxious  
to start out in the morning, made  
application for a trade store for  
him at Boutwell's station, had the  
promise of it, and will get the pa-  
pers to-morrow. He very generous-  
ly proposes that it be considered  
part of the shingle transaction,  
or I become co-partner in a store too,  
one of his sons is to take charge of it.  
Got Dr. P. to copy the Canal, and  
went up to the Legislature to make  
the acquaintance of some of the  
members met a number and  
was introduced by Maj. R. B. &  
others to them, it is not proper to  
speak of them definitely, from so  
slight an acquaintance, there are  
some quite intelligent, gentlemanly,  
looking members, many not so. -

Friday, May, 6th, 1865  
 Occurrence S. S. papers for  
 his supply store, went on his bond  
 with his son as security, found an  
 examination that the Canal  
 Bill, I have spent two or more days  
 working at, and preparing with  
 great care is in conflict with  
 the new Constitution of the  
 State, the Legislature being  
 prohibited by that instru-  
 ment from granting special  
 incorporation, except for po-  
 litical or municipal purposes,  
 this is another instance, and  
 I have had many of them, of  
 relying on the notions of others,  
 without examining for myself.  
 All I will not be foiled by this  
 difficulty alone, so I have  
 commenced a Bill to grant  
 the right to construct the Canal to  
 certain persons as a joint stock  
 company.

Saturday, May 7th 1865  
 Completed the Bill for the  
 joint stock company to make  
 the Canal, submitted it to St. Gov.  
 Bates, seemed well pleased with it,  
 doubt if he is very competent to judge,  
 though a sensible, practicable  
 man, he has not been engaged in  
 making laws or studying them,  
 I having difficulty in getting  
 his bills of tools, supplies &c through  
 the Custom House Gov. Bates I went  
 there with him, found the officers  
 indisposed to talk to him, or give  
 him any satisfaction about  
 one of the accounts that would  
 not be found in the office, they ev-  
 idently mistake the business put in  
 the hands of a broker, after I had  
 talked to them a while they agreed  
 to give him a duplicate clearance  
 if he would get from his merchant  
 a duplicate account, this I ad-  
 vised him to do. When he went to his



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Merchant he found his  
clearance then, deposited by  
some one, the merchant affected  
not to know his name, who instruct-  
ed that I should pay \$3 before re-  
ceiving the papers, this he refused  
to do, and the Merchant had to give  
him the papers, this was without  
the act of some custom-house  
broker, and likely with the conniv-  
ance of the Clerk, who was or  
little disposed to attend to I.  
Have a cue from Mrs. Richard-  
son, a remarkable character, of  
this City, I think I have more than  
once before referred to, she re-  
mained, to my no little annoyance,  
near an hour, talked incessantly,  
but left me in doubt as to the real  
object of her visit, she named several  
things, mostly in my own interest,  
such as to introduce me to prom-  
inent persons, and to have me  
take some position where I might

be employed for the public good, was  
solicitous as to my future employ-  
ment, suggested going to the law here  
and tender her services to introduce  
me to lawyers and judges, she profess-  
es to devote her life to ameliorating  
the condition of her fellow beings;  
but I confess myself in some doubt  
whether she was not prompted more  
by her woman's curiosity to know more  
of me, than she had been able to learn,  
than by any humanitarian mo-  
tives, she concluded by inviting  
me to take tea with her on Sunday  
evening, this, to her evident sur-  
prise, I declined, because as is true  
I do not like to visit on the Sabbath, I  
am conscious of doing many  
worse things, but do not feel that this  
is right, especially when, as would  
have been the case to some extent, in  
this instance, it partakes of a busi-  
ness character, the fact is I did not  
care to cultivate this acquaintance.

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to too great intimacy, because  
fear it would become irksome.  
Sunday, May, 8th, 1865.

I went this morn-  
ing to the Jesuits Church, on  
Baronne St. Curiosity prompted  
me in part, and partly to hear the  
music. It is said to be better than  
at any other church in the city.  
I am not a judge in an artis-  
tic or scientific sense of either  
vocal or instrumental music. To  
my ear the singing seemed good  
indeed, and those who profess to be  
competent to determine pro-  
nounce it superior. The in-  
terior of the Church was fitted  
up, especially about the altar, with  
splendor, almost gorgeously.  
The service was unintelligible to  
me, in great part, except the ser-  
mon, which was a good moral lec-  
ture of no marked ability. Spent  
most of the remainder of the day at my room

Monday, May, 9th, 1865.

We had a salute of 100  
guns this morning, as if on yesterday,  
in commemoration of the battle her  
first half a century ago. At eleven A.M.  
I went to the City Hall, where the State Legis-  
lature meets, to see some of the mem-  
bers and try to induce them to favor  
the passage of my Cane Beer. I only  
had an opportunity of talking to a few.  
They spoke favorably, and several men  
not of that body, who are supposed to  
have considerable influence, seem  
to take a lively interest in its passage.  
Invited Judge B. to my room and  
had a long talk with him on the sub-  
ject, he promises to urge the passage  
and talked as if he could have  
it pass through the house at  
once, and to see him at 10 A.M.  
to-morrow. At one o'clock to-day  
the two houses went into the election  
of a U.S. Senator for the term of  
six years from 4th of March next.

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Then were present and voting 28  
Senators and 64 members of the House,  
92 on joint vote. As soon as the rolls  
were called and the business for the  
assembly was announced, there  
was a half dozen or more striving  
to be first to put in nomination  
Governor Michael Hubert. I am  
not certain of spelling his name right,  
after a little hesitation, as if he  
were to be the only candidate,  
a member rose and announced:  
Elliott Smith, there being no  
other name presented the nomi-  
nations were declared closed, and the  
voting, viva voce, began. Hubert  
receiving all but two, that were  
cast for Smith. The result was  
received with enthusiastic  
applause; as soon as this subsi-  
ded it was moved and carried that  
a committee wait on the newly  
elected Senator, inform him  
of the fact and invite him to

address the Assembly. He made his  
appearance in a few minutes and  
was greeted with uproarious applause.  
Continuing till he had reached the  
Speaker's stand. He is very lame and  
has to use a crutch, short of stature,  
but stout, fair complexion, amber  
hair, small grey twinkling eyes, a full  
round face, wreathed in a smile half  
blame half sinister, not easily de-  
scribed, but altogether impressive  
me, as I have no doubt he is, as being  
subtle, cunning, demagog, of fair  
ability for that order, not a great man  
any, where, but a successful politician,  
an, I should not think him so,  
though that is the age requisite by the  
Constitution. His speech was full  
of meekness, humility, and  
conscious infirmity, for the  
high place to which he had been  
elected but earnestly promised  
his best and truest best efforts  
in discharge of the high duties

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that involved on him, several times referring to the prominent part he had acted, as the standard bearer of the great free state movement. When any thing was said in favor of freedom, and the abolition of slavery, the audience responded in hearty applause. This was general, and joined in by those who, I feel confident are of different opinions, of circumstances warranting. But my great has been the temptation begotten of this war for dissimulation, that <sup>it</sup> would seem those numbers as good and honest men feel justified in practicing it. Where all this is to me is but conjecture with the wisest. It certainly evidences a degree of political dishonesty among the masses unprecedented and may well give pause to the advocates of popular government. Does this prove its patriotism in the war, or is it the offspring of our political fabric?

Tuesday, May, 10th 1865

To day I have passed looking about the Legislature, trying to get some parties committed for the cause enterprise, have done little else.

Wednesday, May, 11th.

To day not materially different from yesterday, some favorable indications of success.

Thursday, May, 12.

I have loafed out this day in a most tiresome manner, trying to please poor, miserable would be legislators; they assume, as far as they know, the airs of such, and must be carried accordingly. Well I can not do much else, and probably nothing more advantageously, so I will try to make the business of amusing them pleasant, and it may pay. Called to night on Dr. H. & family, found them well and in better spirits than usual.

Friday, Aug. 13th 1865  
St. Gov. Wells and Maj. Jones of the Senate called on me this morning, had a conference on mode of proceeding with General Rice, passed part of the day at General Canby's Head Quarters. Some time given to the Legislature, had two consultations as to operations in Texas, in cotton, nothing of any importance is likely to be done, called this evening on Mrs. Richardson, and was well talked by her. News from the Union, not of much importance except as indicating activity, especially by Sherman. Think in a few days we shall have important news from him.

Saturday, Aug. 14.  
Called this morning with R. B. Kingsbury on Gen. Canby to see Trounce R., found the Gen. quite pleasant, requested me to call.

Winn between 7 & 8 this evening, I went next to the Legislature, met several members, had an interview with St. Gov. W. At 1 P.M. called on Mrs. C. B. Smith, found her very sociable spent half an hour or more with her. Met a Mrs. Whitelsey, there quite pleasant, this was a visit of duty as I had been invited to a party then sometime since, excuse out of my duty as well as I could. Returned to my room at 2 1/2 P.M. read till 3 1/2, dined, spent the remainder of the evening reading till 7 o'clock, called on Gen. C. gave him my opinion of the persons and things he wished to inquire about. Prospected for it, my home something better. Just had a conversation with Dr. J. about his cotton enterprise, found him in good, or rather better spirits, and hope he may do some good at it but doubt.



29/ Sunday, May 15th 1865  
Went to the Catholic - Jesuit -  
Church to-day, heard very little of  
the sermon, being in the gallery.  
I could neither see the minister,  
or hear much he said, but was  
favorably situated to hear the  
music, the singing. I suppose  
is very good, it is so far from me,  
and so I thought, but know so  
little of music, my judgement  
is worth nothing. This evening  
received a telegram from Judge  
Duval and Mr. Swenson, on the  
steam, stuck at the bar; they are  
just returning from New York,  
have been up to let Mrs. D. know  
they are coming. The news seems  
very gratifying to her. Recall re-  
call the news to-day, the military  
situation looks flattering, but  
there is much vitality in the Re-  
bellion yet, and the war will con-  
tinue for many a sad day to come.

Monday, May 16th, 1865  
I called this morning  
on Gen. Roberts, at his request to look  
at a new breech-loading gun of his  
own invention, liked it, thought it  
entirely safe, and susceptible of be-  
ing loaded and fired very rapidly,  
had but little machinery, and that  
not likely to get out of order. Found he  
was desirous of getting it adopted by  
the U.S. as the pattern for the general  
arm of the service. Spent part of the  
day with different members of  
the Legislature talking of the  
many merits of the proposed ar-  
mal, procuring notice to be given of  
its introduction in the Senate.

Tuesday, May 17th.  
Several Texans,  
just over from Brazos Island,  
called on me to-day. Most of them  
have deserted the Rebel service, and  
but few as far as I can learn, are  
inclined to take service for the

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Union. The fact is, these men, have no fixed notions on the subject, have about as soon sense one side as the other, but if left to their own inclination would serve neither. They have money, grown tired of the Rebel service and pay & left it. Poor fellows they are meaning, class, with little or no money, and not much chance for many of them to obtain employment. I have not money to give them, but will do all in my power to get situations for them where they can make livings.

Wednesday, Jan'y 18th,

Well there is some reports of Commissioners having been appointed to negotiate terms of peace. I do not think this is true so far as it represents that such have been appointed by the Rebel authorities. Davis is not the man to make peace on any

terms restoring the Union. he is too ambitious and selfish to do this, and when it ever is done, it will be by some power superior to his. There are evident indications of a wide spread feeling of opposition to Davis, but I do not think it strong enough yet to control. It has not become organized, it is unconscious of its strength, does not know if it is safe to act independently. I see all this shall occur. I do not look for peace. D. P. Rice keeps up his mania for cotton, thinks he will get some in soon. It is likely he will, but I do not believe he will get in enough to do much good. I have not heard much of the Cane today. The bill is before the Committee, must look after it tomorrow and try and get it acted on as early as possible. have been to see about Mr. Ann Gibson & Miss Jones, got off for Texas, procure permission & they will start in a few days.

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Thursday, Mar. 19th 1865  
 This has been a very  
 day, misting rain, with cool E.  
 Wind. My feelings have been in  
 strong sympathy with the weather,  
 or a heavy fall like gloom weighs  
 heavily upon my spirits, I can  
 not throw it off. I know not what  
 to ascribe it to, It may be in part  
 the weather in part the constant  
 thought of my dear Wife and Child.  
 The thought of them has been  
 ever present since yesterday  
 I learned Miss G. would be ab-  
 sorbed to go to Texas, I am cer-  
 tain I can write by her and that  
 the letter will get home, but Oh God!  
 how will it grieve them? And then  
 to be unable to say when I will  
 come. I know will be so painful  
 to that poor heart that has al-  
 ready suffered so much on my  
 account, is oppressive to me be-  
 yond expression. Really while

I feel ashamed ~~to admit it~~, I am con-  
 strained to admit, that life under  
 these afflictions, is often felt a weary  
 burden. But I must ~~be~~ all for  
 their sake, and if it be God's will I  
 shall meet them again alive, & in  
 some measure, to secure their happi-  
 ness in the future. I feel so depressed  
 all day, that I have attempted to  
 do but little, What can I do? What  
 can any one, a more private cit-  
 izen, like myself, do? Literally noth-  
 ing. I must stand with folded arms  
 and see the inevitable ruin roll  
 over me in common with all the  
 South. It is painful to think I have  
 not overruled this, as to my family at  
 least, for I saw it plainly and pre-  
 dicted it from the first. Yet I  
 am now, clung to a delusive hope  
 that this terrible ruin would not  
 come. While my reason told me  
 it would, I let the delusion control  
 I suffer the penalty, none I alone

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The sufferer it would be less in-  
tolerable, but those whom God has  
blessed me with must be victims  
too. And what is to be the final des-  
tiny of us all is veiled in impen-  
etrable gloom. Better poverty and  
want may come. I must do all  
in my power to avert these, and  
to-morrow bestir myself with  
renewed energy. The rumor of  
peace is repulsive to me. I do not  
believe a word of it. Would it  
were true. A day or two will show,  
however, if there is any founda-  
tion for this peace rumor. Oh  
God grant it may be true.

Friday, Jan. 20th.

It has rained in-  
cessantly all day. I have been  
in doors most of the time went  
out this morning and saw 97.  
54/100 & to Mrs. Stros, for Mr. D. S. & took  
& otherwise attended to his busi-  
ness. Nothing worth recording.

Saturday, Jan. 21st/1865-

About all I did to-day was to  
lobby about the Legislature. There is  
nothing more disagreeable to me, or  
that I am less qualified for. I hate  
the crowd. But I may make some-  
thing for my family to meet the wants  
of a future day, and whatever may  
be my distasteful duty requires I should  
make the effort.

Sunday, Jan. 22nd.

Attended church  
at The Presbyterian Church,  
heard the Rev. Mr. Beatty preach.  
He is a dull, heavy speaker, but  
preaches short sermons. Dined  
by invitation with Dr. Yeom.  
Spent the evening pleasantly with  
him and family. I do not like  
visiting on the Sabbath, and yet  
I am conscious of doing many  
worse things. It may be in part the  
result of habit and early education,  
but what it may I am not ashamed of the  
feeling

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Monday, Jan. 23rd 1865.

I have been busy all day. General Canine got him to agree to remove the disability that Capt. Speer labored under in consequence of his having been dishonorably dismissed from the service last summer. And also to allow Texas Refugees to enter the service. Papers come time about the Legislature, not very satisfactory, many fair promises, but find difficulty in getting anything done. Talk a great deal about cotton speculations, &c. &c.

Tuesday, Jan. 24th.

This has been a great holiday with the negroes, celebrating their emancipation here and the same course taken in Missouri and Tennessee. Gov. A. has set the day apart by proclamation, and the City Authorities, &

Military, to a partial extent observe it. A good deal of display was gotten up by the negroes and their friends, friends and admirers, compassion may be due the former, disgust and contempt I know are deserved by the latter who are prompt-ly, venal and base motives. I feel to do most they do. But this is not the place or time to indulge in speculations. I have remained in my room most of the day.

Wednesday, Jan. 25th

Obtained a pass from the Provost Marshal for James H. to carry 1000 lbs to Red River Landing to pay freight on cotton. Dr. P. has contracted for there, doubt if he gets the cotton. Met Gov. Bell, Maj. A. and others at the Legislature, conference with them on the Canal Bill promise it should be brought up to-morrow. Had a long interview with Mr. A. of Texas & Va. of this place.



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Thursday, Jan. 26th 1865

To-day has been so nearly a repetition of yesterday that it hardly deserves a separate notice. Except the promise as to the Canal Bice has been kept, and the Bice has been referred to the Internal Improvement Committee. To obtain an early report from them is very desirable and important, but especially to have it favorable.

Friday, Jan. 27th 1865

Received on Genl. C. of:   
 Various orders for recruiting troops for Texas, and provisions for commissions for several persons, Mrs. C. - The Genl. being confined by his wound to his room - Came in and was very kind sincere and free in expressing the friendship of the Genl. towards me. Went with Miss G. and Miss J. to assist them on board the dispatch boat to go to their homes in Texas. They were

profuse in their expressions of gratitude for the services I had rendered them in procuring them permission to go home this way, and to carry with them such articles of merchandise as they desired. The Capt. of the boat was very civil towards them, gave up his rooms and made them very comfortable for more than I had expected, and greatly to their astonishment and delight. I sent by them a letter to my sweet wife, which I hope she will get, and they both promise to write to her as soon as they reach home. I reached my hotel at 5 P.M. and as I lost my dinner, have spent the remainder of the evening conversing with Mr. Swenson about plans for the employment of the freed government of the negroes. His views are far more practical & appropriate to the condition of things, so than any I have heard.

91/ Saturday, Jan. 28th. 1865-  
We have had a  
chilly, damp day, not very  
cold, but sufficiently so, with the  
damp atmosphere to be disagree-  
able. I have from Genl. C. S.  
Huea, Secretary of the Specie's Commis-  
sion as Capt. and order removing  
his disabilities consequent on  
his dismissal, delivered them  
to him and had the satisfac-  
tion of seeing him made real-  
ly happy and for the time, at least,  
really grateful for the service I  
had rendered him. I may have  
done him injustice by the expos-  
ition seeming to question his gra-  
titude. He is not that order of man,  
but a pure, sincere, faithful  
friend and gallant man. To ob-  
tain justice for such is a pleasure,  
and I think he has only had that  
which he was entitled to. I doubt  
not I shall be grateful for it by those

who did him the wrong. But what  
if I am? It was my duty and my  
pleasure to assist him as I hope I  
shall ever feel it my duty, when a  
good man has been unjustly  
dealt with. I have been made  
anymore at the disposition of  
some Texans to enter legitimate  
service by joining "what are termed  
quarter master societies, which they  
suppose is a sort of independent  
service and I fear affording fa-  
vorable opportunities for pil-  
lage."

Sunday, Jan. 29th.  
I have been, ever  
annoyed to day, by a number of  
office seekers, who suppose I have  
the ability to procure places for them  
in the organization called of Texas  
Refugees. Most of them wish to be  
Captains, some even one at least, said  
he would take no office below that,  
and he certainly fit for more.

See this rush for office, has  
 for means of gratification prop-  
 ably one company, and for that  
 two of the three commissioned  
 officers already are already ap-  
 pointed. Now the Texans are ready  
 to do service as soldiers as they are  
 to procure office, a large force could  
 be readily raised, But there is a  
 very marked disinclination  
 on the part of most of them to  
 go into the service from a desire  
 to battle for their lost homes and  
 country. I have hardly left my  
 room to-day, so numerous and  
 pertinacious have been these  
 aspirants for military position.  
 This evening I have been read-  
 ing Spenser's "American Uni-  
 on" an English work strongly  
 advocating the cause of seces-  
 sion, as a right, wise and cer-  
 tain of success. It is strongly  
 partisan, but much of the prej-

judice against the U. S. Govt,  
 common to English writers and  
 betrays evident desire to see that  
 government broken up. But to  
 one who does not participate in that  
 wish, it may be some consolation  
 to see most of his predictions have  
 failed thus far, and greatly lessen  
 apprehension that the others may  
 be verified.

Monday, Jan. 30th.

Spent most of  
 the forenoon at the Legislature,  
 prospect flattery to get General  
 Rice passed, went to see Genl. H.  
 found him in good spirits and  
 kindly disposed. Procure change  
 in Commission issued to Sped.  
 from Capt. to Lt. Lieutenant so as to  
 get him mustered as a recruit-  
 ing officer. Spent the remainder  
 of the day talking about the war,  
 cotton trade and securing applica-  
 tions for office.

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Tuesday, Jan. 31st 1865

Have to call on

Gen. G. to obtain permission for deserters from the Rebel Army to enlist in the U. S. Army. He gives me it readily for the specific service to Texas. The probabilities of peace much circumscribed in all circles, and the general impression is the war will not last sixty days. If it be true that F. P. B. Jr. has returned to Richmond I am disposed to repeat, with much confidence, that circumstances are strongly indicating an early termination of the war. But since I don't hope too much. There are many difficulties in the way of a speedy settlement, and not the least among them, Davis himself. He will not yield as long as he can control. Let us hope the best, peace.

Wednesday, February 1st, 1865

All another month has gone by, and no great change in this locality. But a great deal has been effected in a general way throughout the Confederacy. The most marked changes are in the tone of the newspapers, and the party opposed to Davis, both indicating a different state of feeling among the masses. This is pretty conclusive of what may be expected in the course of a few weeks more with the same proportion of success, a complete tumbling down of the whole Rebel fabric. I have done but little, time to get something done in the Legislature and got of it to work recruiting. I fear this will be a slow business. The Refugees, so styled, are much disinclined to enter the service, they have no other feeling than to keep out of the service.

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Thursday, February 2nd, 1865.  
This day has been spent  
listening to applications for  
office, talking of cotton opera-  
tions and reading newspapers  
with a couple of hours devoted  
to the Legislature. We have a re-  
mor that Richmond has fallen,  
brought to Baton Rouge by Rob-  
ert Deserter, who says it was tele-  
graphed to Clinton Miss. that  
the place surrendered on the  
30th ult. That Lee's army are  
prisoners &c. I do not believe  
a word of it. Think a month  
hence such may be true.  
Went this evening to Genl C.'s  
reception, introduced to a  
number of the military.  
Kindly treated by all and feel  
the evening has been well  
spent. It is important to know  
the military these times. Wm. J.  
confess I have not much left for  
them.

Friday, Feby, 3rd, 1865.  
Devoted the greater  
part of the day to the Legislature,  
got the Committee on Internal Im-  
provements together, i.e. three of the  
five had a free consideration  
of the Canal Bill with favorable re-  
sult, some objection to the immen-  
sity of the bill, but finally concluded  
to let it go, and so agreed to report it  
to the Senate without material  
change. Think it will come up  
Monday next, as the Senate at-  
tended over till then.  
Saturday, Feby, 4th.  
Nothing further about the  
fall of Richmond. The report  
was doubtless a fabrication.  
We are having most disagree-  
able weather now, but heavy  
fog and mist all day. Went to  
night to St. Charles. Theater to see the an-  
sible, a perfect conglomeration  
with a good many good hits.



99 Sunday, February 5th 1865.  
Not a word of news from  
any quarter to-day. Started at  
11 A.M. to the Presbyterian Church,  
when about half way, the mist that  
has filled the air for two days, thick-  
ened into a rain, having no um-  
brella and suffering from a cold  
that has annoyed me for the last  
month, I turned back, and have  
remained in doors all day,  
coughing and suffering a good  
deal from a "bad cold," reading  
some, talking to Sunday Tex-  
ans, and Dr. P. and myself con-  
soling with each other our own  
condition and the fate that  
might befall our families. This  
at times quite annoys me, in  
fact almost drives me to desper-  
ation. It is not enough that I know  
I am powerless to help myself, that  
fact is maddening. I will not be so  
always if I have power to change it.

Monday, February 6th. 1865.  
Telegrams and newspaper  
correspondence report that Blair's  
mission has been a success, and that it  
has been a failure. The latter is doubtless  
true. There will be no peace by Davis, and  
those adhering to him, on the terms of  
restoring the Union. Such I have at all  
times thought. He is a cold, passionless,  
selfish and ambitious man, not likely  
to lose sight of himself, nor voluntarily  
make terms that would place him  
before the world in the character of a  
traitor and felon, who owes his life to  
the clemency of the Government he  
had sought to destroy. A slow driz-  
zling rain has fallen all day, cold  
east wind and most disagreeable weather.  
A number of Texans got over last night  
from Brazos San Antonio, deserters and  
refugees. They are between 30 and 40 in  
number such as I have seen are not  
enough looking and dispirited, think  
they aim to keep out of the war.

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Tuesday, February 7th, 1865

This has been a day of perplexities. Commenced with the Internal Improvement Committee, who proposed to amend the Canal Bill so as to require the Canal to be 60 ft. wide and 6 ft. deep, with other onerous amendments, got them to meet at 10 in the morning for the opinion of men experienced in such business and acquainted with the country waters. Man after man has called throughout the day, some wanting one thing, so another, and nearly all that I have not to give, or something I wished to have nothing to do with. Had a long talk with Mr. Keen and Mr. Gilmore recently from Texas, got some information of a general character. They, like many others have staid as long as they found it profitable or safe, and no consequence to others with difficulties when they will return.

Wednesday, February 8th, 1865.

There are more than usual rumors afloat to night. First that peace Commissioners have arrived at Washington, which I do not believe. Second, that Genl. Thomas has arrived in the city and that a large portion of his army is just behind him, on the river, coming down. The troops are probably coming, but it is the Adj. Genl. Thomas who is here. Then it is stated Genl. Harbuck has been removed and ordered to Washington, and that Genl. Banks is certainly to be here soon.

Thursday, Feb 9th,

But little has transpired to day, reported that the Emperor Maximilian has recognized the S. Confederacy. This is so insignificant from the fact that the Military Commander at Matamoros surrendered to Confederate officers deserters on the charge of felony, under the extradition treaty between Mexico & the U.S.,

103 Monday, February 13, 1865

Friday last, about noon, I felt chilly sensations, in addition to severe pain in the head, back and limbs, with slight soreness about the throat. Being at the time at the Legislature, I repaired to my room and after sitting over the fire awhile, went to bed with a high fever, which lasted me near twenty-four hours. To-day I have been up, though feeling quite weak, with some soreness still about root of my tongue, but I shall be quite well again in a few days. Much has transpired in the last three days, or rather much has reached us, of a character doubtless that saddens many a heart by disappointment of cherished hopes of peace. We have had full accounts of the so styled peace conference, all resulting in a declaration on the part of

The Rebels to prosecute the war till their independence is achieved. At any rate they decline to negotiate on other terms than a prior recognition of their independence. In view of all the existing circumstances, the repeatedly expressed purpose on the part of the U. S. Govt. The recent signal and important victories obtained &c &c, it is not very readily perceived why Mr. Davis should have sent Commissioners with such instruction. He must have known the condition would not be yielded. But it may be to answer the clamor for peace that the Yankees refuse to negotiate a peace with us, and now you must see that the only course left is to prosecute war. It is not believe, however that this answer will satisfy those who desire peace on the basis of reconstruction, and there are many such and many who prefer it to the

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was on any terms. As well he seems by  
previous remarks, I am not disap-  
pointed in the result of the promise  
of peace. Yet I must have partaken  
unconsciously of the hope which  
cheered my friends, for I find  
come over <sup>me</sup> a feeling of sadness,  
as if some serious mishap or dis-  
appointment had occurred. Such is  
the effect of association that our  
feelings give way to the feeling  
and sympathy of those around us.  
It has become quite warm, and is  
now raining again. The crops of  
cotton is quite as objectionable for more  
to me, <sup>as</sup> the draughts of Texas.

Tuesday, Feb, 14th.

This has been very much a  
day of inaction and quite  
void of interest. Rain at in-  
tervals through the day and  
warm as spring. God preserve  
and protect my wife and child  
and make me able to bear this long  
waiting.

Wednesday, February 15th, 1865

Borrowed to day of  
Willis Stuart two hundred dollars,  
green backs, which with one hun-  
dred obtained from him a few days  
since, make three hundred dollars.  
I owe him, I am not out of money,  
but have advanced this character of  
funds to another to a greater amount,  
which I expect to get back in time  
to replace this, so as to be able to keep  
my specie, which is getting low.  
No incident of importance has  
transpired, and I feel altogether  
too gloomy and depressed to attempt  
to write my thoughts.

Thursday Feb, 16th.

Attended Mrs. Lamb's  
reception to night, a large and brilliant  
concourse of the military & citizens.

Friday, Feb, 17th

Quorum in the senate  
better prospect for the Clonal bill. Time  
may be found too short, I distrust my luck.

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Saturday February 18th, 1865

Mr. Roepler and Ridge  
Paschal got in this evening on the  
transport from Brazos Island. The  
former reports from Austin, Tex.  
as late as 14th ult. says he saw my  
brother shortly before leaving, and  
that he, his and my family were  
all well; but brought me no let-  
ter. It is most gratifying to hear this  
much though I think it very stran-  
ge I got no letter, and I am obvi-  
ously to hear from my dear wife  
and child. The reason must be the  
apprehension of danger from  
writing letters, lest they might fall  
into the hands of the rebels; and  
as especial hate is entertained  
towards me it may be safer to risk  
nothing. The greatest intolerance  
and oppression are continued  
towards Unionists. Still R. says  
many original secessionists are  
now for "peace only terms".

Sunday, Febr. 19th 1865

Have talked a good deal  
with Mr. Roepler, especially on the  
military situation of Texas.

Monday, Febr. 20th 1865

Recd. invitation to  
take tea at Genl. C's with Maj.  
Genl. Wallace, to converse with him.  
(Genl. H. & Judge D. being also invited)  
on Texas matters. Found Genl. W.  
a pleasant, easy, affable gentleman;  
near 5 ft. 9 in. high, high, straight nose,  
not very prominent, ~~even~~ regular,  
rather handsome features, com-  
plexion & hair dark, small gray  
eyes. I judge him 40 years old, of a  
clear, cultivated mind rather than  
vigorous or forcible. The interview  
was not altogether satisfactory to me.  
It seemed constrained and the ob-  
jects disclosure did not seem of  
sufficient importance to call for  
the interview. It may be the ex-  
pected presence of an humble was the cause.



109 Wednesday February 22, 1865

In Commemoration of Washington's birthday the national flag, were displayed and a salute fired. Most of the public offices were closed but no great manifestation of joy went on this occasion. How could there be when the whole community is torn down by the oppression of the war.

Thursday Feb. 23rd,

Nothing to distinguish this from the majority of my unprofitable life. A great many troops have and are arriving here. I know not if they are to go to Tex. I have strong hope they will for I am satisfied peace can only be obtained by the sword. I wish it could be otherwise, but ~~since~~ it is clear it can not be, I have no other alternative, then war.

Friday Feb. 24th, 1865

I have devoted myself to trying to get up recruits for J. G's Cavalry company to go to Texas, find great hesitation on the part of Texans to go into service, hope for better feeling when this company shall be filled up, as I hope it will in a few days.

Saturday, Feb. 25th,

News tonight of the capture of Brandville S.C. and reported advance on Charleston, also on Wilmington. Attended the meeting of Loyal National Texas League, heard Gen. H. make an abolition speech. The services by one Leopold and others singing "John Brown" Ye gods!!!

Sunday, Feb. 26th,

Devoted most of the day to reading and unprofitably moping over my own condition and the probable situation of my family. How horrible this life is.

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Monday, February 27th, 1865

Spent most of the day in trying to get up recruits, find the slow and most inane business. Though a few are obtained every day and one company will be filled in a short time. It is hoped the recruiting will then go on better. The news from Genl. Sherman is favorable, he seems to hold the commanding positions in S. C. and must soon be in position to invest Charleston or force its evacuation.

Tuesday Feb. 28th.

This day is called by the French Mardi Gras (Fat Thursday) and is observed as a holiday by them, being celebrated by processions, balls, riding and driving through the streets in masks and all in a jivable gay and ridiculous

costume which seems to give them great pleasure, but I must admit I failed to see anything particularly amusing in the elaborate disguises of either dress or character assumed. This is the termination of the carnival when all are supposed to go round in meats to do them through the forty days of Lent commencing with tomorrow.

March 1st. (Wednesday) 1865

Well here is the beginning of spring and though there is great activity in the movement of troops and extensive military preparations, I am in doubt if any move is intended for Texas. The news though from the last is very cheering. It is authoritatively announced that Charleston is evacuated and great portion of it burned by the Rebels, leaving many women & children in distress.

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destitution, and want. It is  
like many a heart now bruised  
and bleeding under the iron  
heel of revolution, will silently  
glow with pleasure at the an-  
nouncement that this parent  
spot of the rebellion has fallen.

Thursday March 2nd.

Called on Genl.  
Hurlbut in relation to Refugees  
being furnished transportation  
north, and Brig. Genl. H.  
on the same subject. He said  
he would attend to it in com-  
mon, this I understood to  
mean he did not intend to  
do any more thing but wish-  
ed to get rid of me, well it will  
be some time before I call  
on him again. Devoted  
most of the day to recruiting.

Friday March 3rd.

Called this morning to see Genl.  
Canby with reference to Texas

affairs, had just commenced the  
conference when Mrs. C. terminated  
it by requesting I would defer it till  
she could get the Genl. to redeem his  
promise to have his Photograph taken,  
which I readily assented to and  
fixed 7 P.M. to renew the inter-  
view. Called at 7, found the  
Genl. had been appropriated  
by the Commission and spent the  
evening very pleasantly with Mrs.  
C. Telegram received this eve-  
ning that Wilmington had  
fallen being abandoned as  
the national Troops moved  
on it leaving it in such a large  
number of prisoners behind  
of so, they certainly did not  
care much to get away. It has  
been very warm, almost sum-  
mer heat, to-day, and is now  
raining. It would seem so  
much rain must seriously  
retard planting.

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Saturday, March 4th 1865

Lieutenant Governor of  
Madison Kees was inaugurated as  
Governor of Louisiana today vice  
Michael A. Hahn resigned to take  
his seat - if he can get it - in U.S. Sen.  
etc. The ceremony of inaugurating  
a St. Gov. is altogether novel to me.  
Grand celebration by the fire  
companies of this or their an-  
versary day. The first, I am  
told they have had since the fall  
of New Orleans. Companies all  
became well filled with men  
& presented quite a display  
of pagantry in the way of flags,  
banners &c.

Sunday, March 5th,  
Attended Janitor Catholic  
Church, read news papers,  
dined with Refugees about  
five spots for Texas, took a long  
walk, returned and brooded  
over the "situation".

Sunday, March 6th 1865.

A bright, sunny day,  
but devoid of special interest.  
Had a long talk with Mr. Pierce,  
Ex Consul at Matamoros. Think  
much assistance could be ob-  
tained from Refugees and others  
in any expedition in Texas,  
especially reference to a man  
of influence (could not re-  
collect his name) living some  
30 or 40 miles above Brownsville.

Tuesday, March 7th.

Nothing occurred out of  
the ordinary routine.

Wednesday, 8th, March

The same as the last several  
days, or so nearly so as to present  
nothing worth notice.

Thursday, March 9th.

Passed most of the time  
striving with refugees, found  
it as usual a difficult work,  
returning little or no fruits.

117 Friday, March 10th, 1865-

Received a letter from my dear wife, it has been a long time coming, being dated the 17th Jan. past, and come too by way of three, but it has given me an speculable gratification to hear my more than loved wife and child are well, or at least are in sufficient health to report that they are, and that Edwin's throat is much improved. I have suffered the most painful apprehensions on his account, and now how gratifying to have his dear mother write so confidently of his improvement. Ah, but it is hard to be separated as I am from these loved objects of my life, I am not without hope, thank God, that I shall see them again in a few months, and I trust never to be separated from them.

Saturday, March 11th, 1865-

Visited Governor, W. and Genl. H.

Sunday, March 12th.

Went to church and spent the day otherwise becomingly, or at least in quiet meditation.

Monday, March 13th.

Called on Mrs. Canby, she is a sad, poor lady, and has at all times <sup>been</sup> kindly disposed towards me, especially so to-day.

Tuesday, March 14th.

Called on Governor Wells in the interest of Judge P. Visited the Theater, saw Rose Dale.

Wednesday, March 15th.

Heavy rain, streets quite flooded, been out but little.

Thursday, March 16th.

Devoted most of my energies to writing, did but little of course.



119 Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 1865.  
 How blank of items  
 of interest, nothing, nothing  
 worth recording unless it be  
 the weather has cleared up, &  
 quite cool for the season.  
 Visited the Theater this eve-  
 ning to see the great play of  
 Richieu by Lawrence Barrett.  
 He is a man of considerable  
 dramatic talent, and present-  
 ed the great Cardinal in an  
 admirable manner. It is won-  
 derful, how to the life, so young  
 a man can act the  
 old and infirm. Received  
 several commissions for  
 parties to recruit for Texas  
 Cavalry. Will this succeed, is a  
 question I often ask myself,  
 but fear to answer.

Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup>.  
 Devoted a part of the  
 day to recruiting and have

The satisfaction, this evening, of  
 knowing that one company is  
 complete. This is but a small  
 proportion of number of men  
 necessary to enable me to rejoin  
 my family, but it is a beginning.  
 It kindles a faint hope that in  
 a few months enough may be  
 obtained to commence con-  
 sideration. In this point of  
 view I regard the enterprise of  
 the greatest importance to the loyal  
 people of Texas; but so intensely  
 selfish are some that they would  
 not believe, rather any meas-  
 ure they are not at the head of,  
 should fail than succeed.  
 At the Theater again to night,  
 saw Mr. Butts by L. F. and feel  
 quite compensated for my  
 outlay. At times he exhibited  
 high dramatic talent, howev-  
 er, given much study to  
 elocution it is worth listening to.

121 Sunday, March 19th, 1865  
 Attended the Episcopal  
 Church, Rev. Mr. Chubbuck  
 preached a very short, but still a  
 very dull sermon. He requested  
 of his congregation and delivery  
 no better, all in all the least  
 interesting minister I have heard  
 of that Church. Wrote a long letter  
 to my wife, when will she get it,  
 if ever and when shall see her  
 again if ever? are questions,  
 especially the latter, that have  
 come, unbidden to my mind,  
 many times to night. Oh God  
 vouchsafe to me this great  
 joy.

Monday, March 20th.  
 Attended to several  
 troublesome little affairs  
 with the military, brought around  
 the Legislature, lobbying for the  
 Canal project. It may pass,  
 but doubt if, or so altered as

to be equivocal to a defeat.  
 Mr D. S. returned from his mis-  
 sion to make provision to bring  
 sugar and other property through  
 the lines, success not complete  
 but prospect flattering. will give  
 this subject my best attention to-  
 morrow. Several recruiting  
 officers, started for Texas and  
 Mexico this evening, to recruit  
 for 2nd Tex. Caval Regt. much fear  
 they will not do much good till there  
 is some demonstration made to  
 satisfy the loyal men that a force  
 adequate to take hold the country,  
 is moving into the State.

Tuesday, March 21st.  
 Almost everything  
 has gone wrong today, general post-  
 ponement, Canal put off to Thurs-  
 day, Commission for officers &  
 musten put off, and definite an-  
 swer for getting a boat to bring in  
 sugar to be given to-morrow.

123 Wednesday, March 22, 1865

Had an interview with J. H. Lippard of Limestone Co. Texas. He is wild, enthusiastic, fanatical, egotistical, ambitious and with limited intelligence, was sure he could raise a Regt., but must have a distinct promise he should be Colonel, prefer a commission now, any how no man must be appointed over him. That he was the equal, tho. in rank, of any one, and much of the same character. J. H. called and spent some time with me. Travel over much of political ground, we view the past with greater difference than the future, a man of fine intelligence, of Roman virtue & integrity, a treat to meet with. Though you can not agree with him politically.

Thursday, March 23d, 1865.

Called this morning on Governor Wells, but could not get to see him, or did not after waiting near an hour. It was my purpose to let him understand my appreciation of his perfidious conduct in relation to the Canine enterprise, and to ask that he and his confederates should not rob, Ould man Smith who had originated the scheme & furnished all the information, and as an act of friendship had delayed its introduction till his return. That he might be interested in it, that I was poor, destitute, with a large family on his wages, and that I was willing, in fact, desirous, my name should be taken out & doubted not others from Texas would do so. There was evident desire to ~~avoid~~ on the part of

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Senators to exact heavy  
bribes for their votes on the  
The bill, that having refused  
all advances, for the first with  
indignation & scorn. The  
latter would be certain to fol-  
low, and to save Mr. La worthy  
man, and to get out of such  
vile association. I wish  
my name taken out, and  
they could appropriate the  
interest as they might agree.  
As I could not get an inter-  
view with his Excellency I  
could not carry out my in-  
tention, and regret it, but will  
not renew the attempt. will  
leave the hungry thieves to  
garble over and enjoy the  
spoils. This is another les-  
son, and I have had many,  
from the times. The vicious &  
venal are in power, and the  
outrage will be great & greater

See the people, no longer able  
to bear the burthen, will hurl  
them from place, with infamy  
& not the halter. On Monday the  
men assured me, in the most  
positive manner, that the bill  
would pass next day, that the  
Senators have agreed, on that  
night His Excellency had a  
council at his house of several  
of them & on Tuesday, these  
same Senators, who had assur-  
ed me of its passage, either absent-  
ed themselves, or voted its re-  
ference to a special com-  
mittee. When men can be  
guilty of such perfidy the  
wonder they are vice of the life  
will be the sacrifice. And one  
of these men (Jones) is appointed  
one of the Judges of the Sup.  
Court. If he is not in the pen-  
itentiary in less than five years  
justice will not be administered.

127 Friday March 24th 1865-  
What shall I write to-  
night? Nothing of special im-  
portance but transpired and  
yet severe trifling matters have  
occurred, and it is true that  
human life, in the main, is  
made up of atomic events,  
and should not be altogether  
overlooked. Then there is  
the passage through the Senate  
of the, after allusion to, Canal  
Bill, passed with serious alter-  
ations, but if I am correctly in-  
formed there is much sub-  
stance left in it yet. It may  
pass the house without fur-  
ther inquiry but there the doubt  
is of the acts of this Legislature  
since he had voice. They ought  
not, but may be, talked much  
about recruiting, setting up an  
expedition to Texas, he, tried to  
get some orders, but failed.

Saturday March 25th 1865-  
Spent this day mak-  
ing arrangements to get some  
property from Vermillion Bay, made  
a contract with Capt. M., to furnish a  
boat, money and outfit at his own  
risk. The prospects are fair for a  
considerable business, but I have  
been so often disappointed that  
I have ceased to regard anything  
with much confidence that is  
dependent on human trans-  
actions and the future. The  
news from the seats of war is, to  
my mind, favorable for the Uni-  
on, more so than at any pre-  
vious time. Davis in his mes-  
sage admits the possibility of  
failure. Lee is represented as  
stating he is overmatched. I do  
not believe this was said by him,  
though it is certainly true. Our  
army is moving on without serious  
difficulties & looks well for peace.



129 Sunday March 26th. 1865  
Went to church at 11 A.M.  
Heard Dr. Sherman on the  
character of the Prophet Eli-  
jah, did not think he handled  
the subject with much ability,  
but he is a pleasant speaker, &  
describes localities, scenery &  
well. Remained about my  
room most of the remaining  
day. Think of my  
dear little family, how are  
they and when will I see  
them again? The memory  
of the pleasant manner I  
have always spent the sab-  
bath with them hallows the  
day, but it returns ever brings  
a feeling of sadness over me.  
The members all society dis-  
tasteful. Could I but see,  
or even know how my dear  
wife & child are to-night how  
grateful I should be.

Monday, March 27th. 1865  
Given some attention  
to making preparations for the  
expedition to Vermillion Bay  
after sugar, cotton & stock, doubt  
if much money is realized, but  
some may be spent to St. Charles  
Theatre, San Carlos of Monte  
Christo present, tolerably well  
done. Much rain most  
of the day and I have felt more  
gloomy than usual. It is re-  
morse on the streets that there  
has been a severe battle before  
Mobile, in which the Rebels have  
been triumphant, the Feder-  
al forces suffering severely in  
killed, wounded & prisoners,  
I cannot believe it.

Tuesday, March 28th.  
The Vermillion enterprise  
is in doubt and uncertainty, but  
goes to fail for want of a boat.  
and, like all else has done, I fear will.

129 Wednesday, March 29th, 1865

Two events transpired today I had despairing of a boat has been obtained to go to Vermilion Bay, and this Canal Bill was finally passed by the legislature. Both these enterprises promise handsome results, the former at an early day if at all, the latter at some future time; it may be years before much can be realised, but if the war should terminate soon earlier results may be secured.

Thursday, March 30th. Nothing has transpired about from the ordinary routine of looking after recruiting etc.

Friday March 31st.

"So day is too much like yesterday to be distinguished from it except it is the end of the month & I am not on my way home."

Saturday, April 1st, 1865

I have more confidence that the war is soon to end than I have felt at any previous time, tho. I do not find any one else who participates to the same extent in this expectation. I draw my conclusion from such data as Mr. Davis' message, when he admits the chance of failure - a great deal from him, his letter to Genl. Lee giving to the latter power to treat for peace, Genl. L's letter to Genl. Grant and his reply complete with the sudden departure of Pres. Lincoln to Genl. Grant's headquarters all are to my mind strong indications of a willingness on the part of the Rebel to take peace without conditions. If L. is sensible or first he will make the terms as tight as practicable, and if so we should have peace.

131 Sunday, April 2nd 1865  
Attendance service at  
the Episcopal Church, heard  
a fervor sermon by Rev. Mr. Chubb.  
Book, from the Gospel by St. John  
Ch. 1 Verse 4. Spent most of the  
remainder of the day at my  
room, entertaining visitors.  
Loving principle.

Monday, April 3rd.  
This day has passed  
without <sup>an</sup> incident of the slightest interest.

Tuesday, April 4th  
The news from W. and  
S. Carolina is favorable. The  
visit of President L. Ex. President  
Silliman and Mr. Seward  
to Genl. Grant, H. D. I. is indicative  
of one of two things either  
negotiations for peace, or  
to consent as to the plan of  
the Spring Campaign. Silliman's  
looks more like the former.

Wednesday, April 5th 1865  
Genl. Wallace & Davis returned  
last night from their mission  
to Brazos Santiago and Galveston,  
without having effected anything  
unless it was to find the Rebel  
officers disinclined to make  
terms on their own responsibility  
and for themselves. I had entertained  
a feeble hope that a different  
result might be attained, but it seems the sword alone  
must settle this great calamity.

Thursday, April 6th.  
No news of any importance  
from any quarter. The weather  
is getting quite warm and dry,  
after days, days slowly away  
without being able to do any  
thing in this great struggle. I  
am doomed to so continue till  
the end, if I shall live that long, &  
it may be dearer home & loved ones, soon.

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Monday, April 10th, 1865

News from Richmond & Mobile has been abundant. It has literally streamed in from these places, and S. Carolina.

That Richmond has fallen is certain and Lee's Army has lost heavily, making liberal allowance for exaggeration.

If, as stated, over 20,000 prisoners, including many general officers, have been captured, and the remaining force under Lee have fled by superior numbers, one report is, Lee has been captured.

The Virginia Army may be regarded as lost to the rebellion. It is also stated Sherman has whipped Johnston capturing 10,000 prisoners. This I doubt. Grant has captured Fort Blaker & Spanish Fort with a large number of pris-

isoners. Leaving out of the consideration all that is doubtful. There is enough accomplished to certainly terminate the war at an early day, if the fighting in the way of pitched battles, is not already over. The rebellion is crushed and the South may be regarded a conquered, if not a subjugated people. While I have desired the overthrow of rebellion, as a necessity to preserve republican institutions and better for the American people, yet I can not enter into the rejoicing with any zest. There is a melancholy obscurer my vision when I would look to the future, and see or fancy I see a great cloud of Yankee bayonets and overbearing and feel the people of Southern masses will be looked on

133 Friday, April 7th, 1865.

It is announced, via Mobile, that U.S. forces have taken Selma, Ala. capturing 29 pieces of artillery, besides a large amount of other public property. This, it is rumored, has been done by Brig. Gen. Meason, in command of some 1400 Cavalry. If this be true he may do the Rebels great damage along the Alabama river, or probably take Montgomery, and materially aid in the recapture of Mobile. The day is calm & rainy.

Saturday, April 8th.

I have not been at all well to day, some fever and headache, feel better to night. The news is most encouraging from Richmond. Three days fighting, many killed & wounded, and 12000 rebels reported captured, Richmond was again occupied by the national forces. If this prove true as to the number of prisoners taken

or any way near it, Lee's army must be greatly demoralized, and with proper management on part of Grant, will be too much reduced to make formidable resistance, even united with Johnston's Army against Sherman. It seems impossible for them to continue much longer after this. It must end at an early day in peace, or degenerate into a guerrilla warfare. I do not think there is any danger of the latter, except in circumscribed localities, where the nature of the country is very favorable. The cupidity of the people will put it down.

Sunday, April 9th.

Attended the Assenite Catholic Church, heard good music, but understood little else. Spent most of the remainder of the day in my room. Called on Mr. Wells & family.



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As a very scarce people,  
and treated by the mass of the  
North as such, Besides, there  
must now come a great re-  
action among Southern-  
ers themselves, the leaders  
will be blamed, it will soon  
become fashionable to de-  
spise, denunciations will  
follow, demagogues will  
become loud-mouthed, the  
public mind become greatly  
excited, easily lead in the di-  
rection of the popular ten-  
dency, and there is very great  
danger of unprincipled  
designing men, men who  
seek office and position as  
a livelihood and for spoils, get-  
ting into positions of control, &  
being enabled to vituperate  
the most rational measures  
of governmental policy. It will  
be the ~~high~~ highest duty to avert this.

Tuesday, April 18th 1865

The news of the fall of Rich-  
mond has been the occasion  
of exhibiting, in a wonderful de-  
gree, the tenacity of some of the  
secessionists, the officious an-  
nounced in the most solemn  
manner, salutes, fire by order of  
Sec. of War, general rejoicing and  
everything that would ordinarily  
be sufficient to establish any-  
thing was improbable fact, yet there  
are many who disbelieve, or at  
least doubt the truth, cling to  
the hope that it is not so. The sin-  
cerity of such men is not to be  
questioned, nor can I add to  
their mortification by any dem-  
onstrations of joy in their pres-  
ence, their grief must be most  
poignant and will suffer enough  
by their failure for the wrong  
they have committed, how  
great soever that wrong.

139 Wednesday, April 12th 1865  
Nothing of any additional importance to the news today. Callie or Mrs. Canby, spent a short time pleasantly with her, she is a very pleasant, sweet lady of fair average capacity & tolerable intelligence, has all the time been very friendly disposed towards me, and today presented me her photo-graph.

Thursday, April 13th.  
News of the capture of Mobile, or rather taking possession, the rebels having evacuated. It got away with the garrison, no particulars are given, where they will go or that could get off is matter of conjecture. Rumor of Lee's surrender, it may be true, it has been my opinion he would do so.

Friday, April 14th 1865.  
Today there is official announcement that Gen. Lee surrendered his army to Gen. Grant on the 9th inst. on conditions prescribed by Gen. G. i.e. Men & officers to be paroled as prisoners of war, retain their side arms and private property, this news produces very great sensation, tho. no boisterous or postive demonstration of rejoicing, but every loyal man seems heartily to rejoice over it, as the certain termination of the war, as it doubtless is. There is no chance for the rebels to make any formidable resistance or to hold for any length of time any place without this army. Besides, Lee has been the main pillar of the rebellion for over a year.

141 Saturday, April 15th, 1865-

Extensive preparations are making to celebrate Lee's surrender and the fall of Mobile. Two hundred guns are ordered to be fired at 12 M, in La Fayette Square, flags displayed at all public buildings & many private ones, grand illumination. Music and public speaking. I passed through several streets to see the sights, but saw none of the speaking. Those who did seem to think it was common place. About noon news was received that Gen. Johnston had surrendered his army to Gen. Sherman. This does not come in official form & I doubt it. But it has added much to the rejoicing, is taken as true & may be so doubtless will in a few days of not already.

Sunday, April 16th, 1865.

This, as usual with the Sabbath, has been a gloomy day with me. It brings up recollections of home with all its hallowed associations, on this day I so long habitually spent with my family. And the question recurs again and again, how are they & how bearing this long & dreary separation. On their molesting or permitting to stay quietly at home and all that I do hope I have not many more to spend thus but by the blessing of God will be able to join them once more. Attended Church this morning at the Episcopal Church and again this evening to witness the Ordinance of baptism administered by the Oriental Orthodox Church - usually called, I believe the Greek Church. The service was all in a foreign

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language and seemed of  
very great length. Two small  
children were to be baptised.  
They were taken to the entrance  
of the church by the officiating  
minister, accompanied by  
their friends, all prostrate them-  
selves. Minister laid his hands on  
their heads, then read from a  
book, ~~in~~ rapidly for some 20  
minutes, when the party moved  
along the aisle to the altar, on  
which were candles burning, &  
incense of some sort nearby. The  
children were placed in tubs stand-  
ing, four locks of hair cut from each  
of their heads, & dropped in the tubs.  
Then three tumblers of water  
poured on the head of each. As  
much as half an hour was oc-  
cupied in this service. The min-  
ister alternately reading and  
chanting - joined by members - all  
the time. The cross was then made

with oil, on the foreheads of the  
children, and the sermon ended,  
it seemed abruptly and all without  
any formality separation. The dress  
of the minister was much like that  
of the Episcopal, except more ex-  
travagant decorations.

Monday April 17th.  
Nothing of much interest has  
transpired some further partic-  
ulars of the operations at Mobile  
and in Virginia.

Tuesday 18th.  
Last evening Cong-  
regation to Genl. H. a settlement.  
I thought might be brought  
through negotiation with Genl.  
S. in the Trans-Mississippi De-  
partment, that I knew Genl. C.  
would favor it and that it would  
be better for Texans to concede.  
The negotiations. It highly ap-  
proved the suggestion and pro-  
posed at once further confer-

conference on the subject, and volunteered to procure permission to go and see Genl. C. on the subject. He did not keep his engagement to confer with me, but went off with Genl. H. This evening to see Genl. C. I suppose on this subject. So much for ambition and jealousy.  
Wednesday, 19th April.

This morning brought the horrible intelligence of the assassination of Pres. Lincoln & Sec. Seward by J. Wilkes Booth, who shot the President in Ford's Theatre, and an accomplice, name not ascertained, assassinated the Secretary, inflicting seven wounds on Mr. S. and more, the ones on an attendant. A knife only seems to have been used on the Sec., but it ap-

pears the blows were given the Hon. and attendant with heavy six shooter. It is reported this evening the Sec. is not dead. This a most appalling crime, at the thought of which we stand aghast. It is out of the ordinary catalogue of crimes committed by Americans. They have heretofore regarded it with horror and detestation, and can not be contemplated without a feeling of national disgrace. It is not in the power of human foresight to foresee the consequences that may result from this diabolical crime. If it should appear the commencement of a plan of operations by the desperadoes of the country, I will not say of the South, for it is as apt to be sons of liberty of the West. The consequences will be too terrible to contemplate. The excitement has been



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great all day, and fears entertained of violence by the soldiers and Union men to words. Rebels, from deaths are reports of parties who were known to rejoice at the occurrence, the soldiers are under arms, and our only are parading the principle streets.

Thursday April 20th

Twelve months ago to-day I left my home, little thinking I should be so long separated from my wife & son, around whom gather all my cares, anxieties and hopes of future happiness. It has been a year of painful anxiety and gloom, and even now though I hope to get home in a few weeks, yet the future holds out no cheering promise of peaceful security and repose from

This long feverish anxiety and care. If the war is to degenerate into assassinations and murders whose life is secure? and when will law, order, good government and social order be restored? It will I fear not come to this generation. Even just now a secret detective told me they had discovered a plot here to assassinate Genl. Banks. That a number of arrests had been made and a quantity of arms and ammunition discovered. This looks very improbable, so much so that I can not bring myself to believe it. Should it prove true it will be difficult to prevent violence and once it begins there is no telling where it may go to. God grant it may not be true. Surely, the people are not maniacs, none other would act so.

149  
 Friday, April 21st, 1865

At an early hour this morning I was aroused from my morning slumbers by Dr. Phillips already up and dressed, and ready for his trip to Brasher City, Thence to Mesquite river to being in stock, if he can get hold of them. I wish he may succeed. That he may reapen to his exchequer and be the better prepared to make his family comfortable, went to Dr. Mil-  
 lers Headquarters to obtain per-  
 mit for Capt. M. to go home to Mo-  
 bile. Failed for want of power to give it, wrote to Genl. C. who, it seems alone has authority, for the permit. Attended a meet-  
 ing of the officers of the Army &  
 Navy at Liberty Hall, held for the  
 purpose of testifying their sor-  
 row for the death of their com-  
 mander in chief and attempt-  
 ing the assassination of Gen.

Seward, General Banks  
 make a part of his speech, found  
 him speaking when I went in -  
 he is a fair speaker, nothing more,  
 and I thought the effort not at-  
 all commensurate with the im-  
 portance of the occasion, and the  
 abundant materials it furnished.  
 A preamble and series of Reso-  
 lutions were adopted strongly  
 condemnatory of the assassina-  
 tion, pledging their continued  
 service, till the Rebellion shall be  
 crushed & the flag restored over  
 all the territory. Genl. Beayman  
 made a short speech, would judge  
 it had been previously prepared,  
 from the manner of delivery,  
 I could not hear him very  
 distinctly, but a feeble voice.  
 Think these remarks pretty good  
 and sentiment patriotic. All  
 agreed to attend church on Sabbath  
 next in a body, & adjourned.

187 Saturday, April 22nd, 1865.

This has been a day marked by demonstrations of sorrow greater than I ever witnessed, beyond any thing of the kind I doubt not that ever occurred in this City for and near. Throughout the City in every direction, the buildings, public and private, are a scene in mourning, and all most every one, citizen and soldier wears some badge of mourning. It is not that Abraham Lincoln is dead, that event would have brought sadness and sorrow to the hearts of many. But it is that he, the President of the U. S. has been assassinated, thus bringing upon the country the doubly odium of robbing the country of his valuable services, and inflicting on the Nation a deep disgrace.

Assassination is so much out of the order of offenses usual among Americans, and so justly abhorrent to this sense of honor, that it is difficult to make it more so by the addition of words of approbation or condemnation. When perpetrated on the highest public official the crime becomes one so detestible and abhorrent, that the mind seems benumbed, and reels under the enormity of the crime. All the viciousness of the sin crowds bewilderingly upon the mind, and words are impotent to give utterance to feelings that oppress the senses. The precedent, too, in a republic where the popular voice that selects, should, for the time, consecrate and render inviolate, for the officer, may well awaken painful apprehension for the future of our institutions. Then was

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An immense concourse of people, white, gray, yellow, black and all imaginable colors, mixed in together, assembled in La Fayette square, to testify their participation in the sorrow that this event brought to the public heart. Addresses were made by Genl. Harburt & Banks. All the fire companies, procession of negroes and others, with music and banners, were marched in. The assemblage must have numbered five, fifty thousand.

Sunday, April 23rd.

Attendance service at Christ Church. Army and Navy officers attended in a body. Discouraged by Thruwell. I did not strike me as able, but temporary and deeply moral. His philosophy, so far as ascribing the crime to the annihilation of the times, is criticized by some.

Monday, April 24th, 1863.

At half past twelve P.M. The Rebel Ram *Miss. Jassau* the city en route for the Gulf. Her appearance was sudden, to the people totally unexpected. Tho. The authorities seemed to have had some hours notice of her coming. Nevertheless not more than a dozen shots were fired at her by the navy, none doing any damage. And as she went at the rate, it is said of 25 miles to the hour. The telegraph wires are cut below so that the boats & forts can not be notified, showing concert on the part of rebels here, and it is likely she may make good her escape. This is one of the most daring feats of the war. If successful it will be one of the most remarkable on record. The rumor tonight she has been sent by the man of War, Richmond Abbott.

105  
Tuesday, April 25th 1865 -  
What was a rumor last night,  
is confirmed this morning to be true.  
The Rebel Bann, Hobbs, being head-  
ed, or supposed she was, by the man  
of war, Richardson was run  
on the bank of the river, fired  
and abandoned. She was  
burned with whatever cargo was  
on board. Two prisoners were  
captured. The others made off  
into the woods. To-day some  
fourteen others have been  
brought in. It is reported to-  
night that Genl. Kirby Smith  
has agreed to surrender the  
army of the Trans-Miss. to Genl.  
Pope on the same terms that  
Genl. Lee did to Genl. Grant.  
I hope it may prove true, but  
I very much doubt it. And yet  
it might be better for the future  
peace of Texas for a Federal  
force to go there first.

Wednesday, April 26th, 1865 -  
Nothing of special in-  
terest has transpired to-day, no  
news from the seats of war. There  
is a rumor in circulation that  
Genl. E. Kirby Smith is dead, died  
after five days illness. I do not  
know how the report comes, and  
can not judge of its reliability.  
Should it prove true I would  
regard it a misfortune for  
the people of Texas particu-  
larly, as they would become  
subject to the authority of  
Genl. McJannet of whom I  
have not a favorable opin-  
ion either morally or in-  
tellectually.

Thursday, April 27th.  
Another weary day has come  
on gone without any note-  
worthy incidents transpiring.  
Have spent most of the day  
reading. I fear to little purpose.



107 Friday April 28th 1865  
 We have had a very pleasant  
 bright day a little cool for this  
 climate. Spent last evening  
 with Dr. Ayson talked a good  
 deal on the future of the  
 South. He is probably less hope-  
 ful than I would the early  
 future men more invit-  
 ing to me. If good men  
 could be induced to step  
 forward at once and take  
 control much might  
 be effected to resuscitate  
 the prostrate condition  
 of the country. It might  
 be accomplished by tele-  
 graph that Genl Sherman  
 & Johnston have agreed  
 on terms for the surrender  
 of all the Confederate arm-  
 ies. The statement is vague  
 and confusing but suf-  
 ficient appears to show

The terms are favorable to the  
 South compared with the  
 disposition manifested at  
 Washington. And it is stated  
 the terms are not approved  
 by the authorities at that place.  
 But it is my opinion that any  
 thing done by Sherman will  
 have been sanctioned by  
 Genl Grant and it may be  
 a little too hazardous to  
 oppose them both. While this  
 settlement may be more  
 favorable to the Rebel than is  
 altogether just to the loyal  
 men of the South. I heartily  
 wish it may prove true. One  
 who proposes to be advised to  
 me that the two will move  
 towards Texas next week.  
 in three different columns.  
 One by Red River one by Brazos  
 and one by way of the Gulf.  
 We shall soon see if this betu-

169 Saturday April 29, 1865.  
 The reported terms of settlement between Gen. Sherman and Johnston have been much discussed on the streets, many opposing with warmth & some with bitterness. Among the latter several from Texas of these Gen. H. took a leading part. His leading point of objection was the favorable political and official position it placed the Rebels, whereby they would be able to control and vote the officers. This thing of office seems never last sight of, but comes into the consideration of every question with many of our refugees. In fact it would seem most of them have some office in view to which they seem to feel

particularly entitled to as a reward for their loyalty and as a remuneration for wrongs they have suffered because of their political opinions. Nothing will satisfy such short of disfranchising the rebels & rendering them ineligible to any office, and some go so far as to insist that their property ought to be taken away to assist in paying the expenses of the war. This was urged to-day by Gen. H. I think he was annoyed at my opposition to every thing of the kind and advocacy of a general amnesty and free pardon to all. Had a good long interview with Governor W. manifests great friendship and readiness to serve me. He is a ~~shrewd~~ man, but, but!!

III Sunday, April 30th, 1865  
 How many more sabbaths  
 am I doomed to spend in this  
 city, which is becoming almost  
 unbearable? The time has  
 been spent much as usual  
 of Sunday, went to the Epis-  
 copal Church, heard a very  
 uninteresting sermon, &  
 have passed most of the re-  
 mainder of the day in my  
 room, reading and talking  
 to friends. It is reported the  
 steamer, Sultan, blew  
 up, a few days since, at  
 short distance above New-  
 Orleans, with near two tho-  
 sand people on board,  
 and some two hundred &  
 fifty were saved. Most of  
 the persons on board were  
 Federal prisoners on their  
 way to be exchanged, & go to see  
 their friends, horrible fate.

Monday, May 1st, 1865.  
 This has been a bright,  
 sunny day, propitious for the  
 festive celebrations usual and  
 appropriate to the floral queen.  
 Nothing of special importance  
 has transpired, no additional  
 news from the armies.

Tuesday, May 2d.  
 Capt. T. came to me today and said  
 he knew of a coal-bore and petro-  
 lium in the N. W. part of this  
 State that was on vacant land,  
 that he thought might be of  
 great value and that I could  
 become a party of interest with  
 him, form a company, & and  
 he thought there was a great  
 deal of money to be made out  
 of it. I hardly understand this,  
 there is no sufficient reason  
 for this partiality towards me. It  
 is true I offered to assist him to  
 office and may have to come

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extent, but that was very trifling, and passed. have treated him civilly, different from some as he has been in the rebel service, but has for some time been in the Union lines, and seems loyal. Gov. H. since with me to-day spent an hour or so pleasantly and I hope profitably with him. He is full of desire to make money and is ready for any speculation that promises golden returns.

Wednesday, May 3rd.

Commenced by attempting to send one of Dr. P's bad traders for mules, in which he got 3 out of 4 disease mules put on him, did not look at them, took a horse-trader word and guaranty, succeeded partially in making what had been done amiss. Met by

by procurement of Mr. L. Col. Moore, who commanded the 2nd Tex. Rifle Regt. He looks aged and was chiefly old, has lost all. I suspect and now at the age of 50 years, with a family, has to commence life anew, and under many disadvantages. I could not repress a strong feeling of sympathy for him, he seems an amiable, correct-minded man, and such is his character.

Thursday, May 4th.

News of Johnston's surrender on same terms that Lee was confirmed. Booth capture and death confirmed. Reduction of the Army to as much as 50,000 men reported, hope it is true, and that the reduction will go on as fast as public safety will permit.

115- Friday, May 5th 1865  
Mr. J. H. Swenson returned  
last night from Shreveport.  
It seems he had gone there un-  
der an order from Gen. Smith  
amounting to an invitation,  
but by the procurement no  
doubt of Thos. F. McKinney to  
enable him to get out Cotton  
Wk. had left before I reached  
there and I was not permitted  
to land, but restrained on  
the flag of truce boat, visit-  
ing a prisoner. Genl. S. and  
all his officers declining to  
see him. Mr. West to whom  
Judge DuVal and myself  
had written a letter in the  
most conciliatory tone, ex-  
pressive of desire for peace  
without an invasion of Tex-  
as and inviting his coopera-  
tion, suppressed his indigni-  
fication at the overture and

disavowed any such senti-  
ments as the letter seemed to  
anticipate. He might entertain  
being ready to prolong the war to  
the last and at all hazards. Very  
well Mr. W. and Genl. Co. adjourn  
if you will have it so, you will  
have no just ground to complain  
if the consequences should  
be worse for you. I predict that  
the next offer of settlement  
will come from your side.  
Mr. S. informs me that Sherman  
states that in no event could  
I ever live in Texas again.  
Well I would die there and  
some will live there for less  
tolerance to him and con-  
federates than I might be.  
It may be a question if he  
will be permitted to stay him-  
self. Especially if it should be  
generally known that he saved  
Abraham Lincoln on Booth, the assass-  
in.



117 Saturday May 6th 1865.

Received Office an-  
nouncement of the sur-  
render of Genl Taylor, en-  
bracing all Rebel troops in  
Ala, Miss, and E. La, to Genl  
Canby, on same terms that  
Lee surrendered to Grant.

This evening the over east of  
the Miss River, called on  
Mrs. C. to congratulate her on  
the triumph of her hus-  
band. Called at H. D. L. with  
Genl. H. introduced him  
& saw official dispatches.  
He seemed disposed to talk  
and alluded to representa-  
tions of some who had  
been trying to impress  
him with the belief that  
I despise suppressing  
him, called his names &  
disclaimed his belief, but  
why allude to it so often.

Sunday May 7th 1865.

Attended church as usual  
and have spent most of the  
remainder of the day in  
my room, placing news  
papers, & in general for  
news of importance from  
any quarter. Genl. H. called  
on me and spent an hour  
or two socially. As variable, the  
shade

By the light flickering upon me?  
Monday, May 8th, 1865

By invitation called on  
Genl. Herbut, to give him what  
information I might pertain-  
ing to Texas, he having been di-  
rected, he said to obtain such  
facts as might be of service in  
military operations there, had a  
long conversation with him on  
the subject, found he said I judged  
pretty well as to the plan that would  
be best, but he thought, or seemed

117 To, that there would be a  
departure by the controlling  
authority, in preparing a col-  
umn up the river by way of  
the report into Texas. His  
understanding is that there  
will be three columns enter the  
country, i.e. by Red river to  
Houston by way of the Gulf,  
probably Brazos river, and an  
cavalry force to land farther  
west, at Brownsville or Cor-  
pus Christi. I have done  
but little the remainder of  
the day, except to entertain  
various persons, very much  
like myself, having but little  
to do, but anxious to find out  
what is to be done promiss-  
ing a return home. This I  
now feel certain will be com-  
menced soon. Though weeks  
may yet elapse before I see  
clear wife and son. God protect  
them!

Thursday, May 9th, 1865  
The only note worthy e-  
vent of today is the departure  
of Genl. H. for Washington City to  
have, he says, a conference with  
Pres. Johnson on the affairs of  
Texas. He did me the honor  
of a long interview resulting  
in requesting the loan of  
1000 being a little restricted  
in funds, I regreted not being  
able to accommodate him.  
Wednesday, May 10th  
It is stated that Genl. Rich-  
Juglar & staff arrived today  
from Mobile. Many other  
rebel prisoners are ar-  
riving in the City some  
look Stanley some cheerful,  
but I have seen none  
who exhibit any partic-  
ular bitterness. I under-  
stand, though, there are  
many among them.

119  
 Thursday May 11th 1865.  
 Genl Milroy of the Rebel Army  
 who is a brother of Hon. J. A.  
 Milroy died, died on and  
 spent an hour or so with me.  
 He was of Genl Lee's Army &  
 is here on parole, trying to  
 get into Texas. He expressed  
 himself opposed to further  
 fighting and felt confi-  
 dent Genl Smith will not  
 fight in Texas.

Friday May 12th.  
 Genl Canby return-  
 ed from Mobile to day, have  
 not seen him, will try to  
 do so to-morrow. No news  
 of any importance from  
 any quarter, Sunday  
 no more in circulation.  
 The most important of it  
 Davis has ordered the Ark. River  
 thus an expectation will  
 start to Texas soon &c &c.

Saturday May 13th 1865  
 Called on Genl. Canby,  
 seemed care worn and trou-  
 ble, or rather looked so, his  
 manner and conversation  
 were pleasant, said under  
 orders from the War Depart-  
 ment that all recruiting  
 had to be stopped, that for  
 service in Texas as well.  
 This seems to me particu-  
 larly unfortunate for the  
 loyal people of Texas, but  
 it can not be helped and  
 they must take care of them-  
 selves as best they can. It may  
 result in much violence  
 and lawlessness. Have spent  
 pretty much the remain-  
 der of the day in my room  
 feeling too gloomy to care  
 to see anyone for the fu-  
 ture &c &c looks most  
 gloomy & forbidding

121 Sunday May 14th, 1865  
 I have felt badly all day,  
 not sick but depressed &  
 spiritless, as if foreboding  
 some great evil, have been  
 in my room nearly all  
 day, reading "Tom Jones"  
 one of Fielding's novels. His  
 delineations of character  
 is good and observations  
 on human nature show  
 great acceptance of under-  
 standing. Met at dinner  
 W. H. Sellers formerly of Hous.  
 Tom, Tex, has been a Col in  
 the Rebel service, did not  
 meet my salutation in  
 any spirit of cordiality &  
 shown evident disincli-  
 nation to social conver-  
 sation. Regret this bitter-  
 ness of feeling and fear it  
 presages evil for the future  
 & may show my opinion that

the better plan would be  
 to treat the Rebels, now they are  
 defeated, with leniency, even  
 with magnanimity to be ex-  
 pected. If such is the spir-  
 it that is to govern them they  
 must be treated differently,  
 i.e. be made to feel that they  
 are traitors and that treason  
 is a great crime.

Monday May 15th.  
 I have spent most of this  
 day reading Fielding's  
 "Tom Jones". Came out to  
 Ayson & family, heard  
 him talk politics for  
 an hour or more, he is  
 more gloomy than I of  
 the future. Thinks there  
 is a strong probability of  
 Grant becoming military  
 ruler of the country as the  
 leader of the Radical Re-  
 publican party. No danger

123 <sup>14</sup> Tuesday May 16, 1865.  
Beside attending to  
to some unimportant  
missions for Rebels seek-  
ing to get back to Texas. Among  
them Mrs. Withers of San  
Antonio. I have spent  
the day on Tom Jones, and  
conversation principally  
with the Rebels, find some  
of them free of bitter-  
ness towards the U. S. and  
are now adhering to it.

Wednesday May 17th.

The news is just announced  
that President Davis and  
his cabinet, except Breck-  
enridge, have been cap-  
tured in Georgia. And that  
Davis has been sent on  
to Washington City. Also  
that Vice Pres. Stephens  
was arrested. Breckenridge  
is said to have fled.

Through the northern part  
of Georgia in direction of  
Kentucky. There is great re-  
joicing over this news; but  
I doubt if it would not have  
been better for the country if  
Davis had succeeded in mak-  
ing his escape to some foreign  
land. This will be material  
to keep up the already greatly  
intensified excitement of  
the public mind, resulting in  
the execution, most likely, of  
Davis as one of the leaders of  
the rebellion, and the prece-  
dent once established it  
may be difficult to stop  
within due bounds. This  
will have two effects, on the  
minds of the secessionists,  
great bitterness and a strong  
sympathy in the mind of  
the conservative men of the  
North for those prosecuted.



125  
 opposition to this and  
 other ultra measures of  
 the radical party will  
 build up an opposition  
 party that will likely obtain  
 the ascendancy. This might  
 justify a feeling of gratifi-  
 cation at the result as af-  
 fecting the public interest,  
 but ~~for~~ the belief that the  
 same result would be ac-  
 complished by granting  
 the public mind, so that  
 men's reason could again  
 be appealed to, and without  
 the hurtful consequences  
 of embittering the feel-  
 ings of many of the South  
 under the apprehension  
 that the desire of many is  
 not to restore the Union,  
 but to subjugate the South,  
 by which many will be  
 driven from the country.

and others refuse to partici-  
 pate in the political affairs,  
 so that the threatening and wild  
 demagogues will obtain con-  
 trol and entail on the country  
 innumerable ills. I attend-  
 ed a public meeting at Le-  
 Fayette Square to-night, gotten  
 up by the Free State Party - as  
 they style themselves - for the  
 party purpose of indoctrina-  
 ting the "people" with the idea  
 conferring on negroes the fran-  
 chise of voting. The number  
 of white men present <sup>small</sup> ~~was~~  
 the negroes, of all ages, nume-  
 rous, and they seemed influen-  
 ced with "patriotic ardor." But  
 on the whole I had the grati-  
 fication of seeing that  
 the grand demonstration  
 was a failure. Though, I  
 doubt not, it will be very  
 differently represented.

127 Thursday May 18th, 1865-  
No event of special im-  
portance has transpired to-  
day.

Friday, May 19th.

I have given most  
of this day to assisting parol-  
ee prisoners off to their homes  
in Texas, especially Mrs With-  
ers, wife of Confederate  
Col. Withers, she is a culti-  
vated lady-like person  
seemingly grateful for my  
attention. I will say Jo.  
Sears and W. Colwell, but  
as a general thing no at-  
tention has been in-  
fluence on the bitter  
hate Rebels have for all  
Union men, and I be-  
lieve this feeling is more  
intense towards men of  
the South than those  
from the North. If this

spirit is continued it will  
result in one or the other class  
being driven from the country  
with all the sad consequences  
that legitimately belong to such  
strifes. I have just received  
a letter from Capt. Speer in-  
forming me of a most disas-  
trous encounter between the  
Rebels and Federal forces a few  
miles from Buzo Santiago,  
in which 50 men from his  
Company were engaged and  
the majority of them killed.  
Among them both my neph-  
ews, William & James. It does  
not seem certain that James  
was, as one statement is he  
was wounded. This is hor-  
rible and seems to have  
been the result of the most  
culpable mismanagement  
by the Col. in command. These  
were excellent young men

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and it pains me deeply to hear they have been butchered in this reckless manner and may have been with others, then companions, brutally murdered after overpowered by numbers. Surely a day of reckoning will come with a just retribution. This is one of the sorest affliction I have realised to myself in civilisation. I have raised them both and they were dear, almost as sons to me, and bore for me the greatest affliction. But God will be done.

Saturday, May 20th.  
This morning received two other letters from Beza, Island, one from Capt. Fisk the other from Mr. Peyton Smith, giving me the gratifying intelligence that both my

Nephews James and John were alive but prisoners held by the Rebels as such. It seems from other sources that James is wounded in the leg, but probably not seriously. This is so much better than what I was led to believe last night that my gratification hardly leaves me feeling regret for their capture. Nothing further is said about poor Horne and I much fear he is killed. The news from Kirby Smith induces me to think he will not fight, but may delay surrendering till the Federals force enter the country and, as far as they penetrate it, bring the free disaster of an invasion. The Mo. Officers demand protection for themselves before they will surrender.

131 Sunday, May 21st, 1865.

It is very warm to-day, and I have been kept in my room nearly all day by one or another, or principally by many calling. Among others, Judge Duval, to send me a letter he received yesterday from Col. T. who writes from New York and to visit, manifesting anxiety to get to S. Carolina, asking very pertinent questions about paroles, &c. &c. This satisfied me there is to be no fighting in Texas & that when Kirby Smith surrenders there is no chance to get out more cotton he will surrender on the same terms that have been accorded to others. It may admit of question whether this will be for the future peace of Texas.

Monday, May 22nd.

I have had no little trouble to-day in obtaining a pass for a Mrs. Palan, who has been a patient in the hospital at Richmond Va. It seems she has been here some days, unable to get a pass, and it seems singular that Confederate officers should have left her, but as she said she had been referred to me by Mrs. Witherson on her leaving I had to undertake it for her. Mr. Swenson gave me a letter to read he had just received from his wife. It was some consolation to see this, as it spoke of no disaster at home, but not to compare to what one from my own dear wife would give me. Also found inclosure West's letter of explanation or rather retraction of one he wrote

133. Poor West. he had sufficient foresight to see the inevitable speedy doom of the Confederacy, but not moral courage enough to take advantage of it or rather to keep it after obtaining, but has yielded all to out cry of demagogues.

Tuesday, May 23rd.

I have been endeavoring to day to make such an arrangement as would secure to me an interest in a contract to supply the General in Texas with beef. Think I may succeed with and through Col. Grubbs of Ky. - brother of the General. Aim to look further into the matter in the morning. I gained some insight into government contracts.

Wednesday, May 24, 1865.

Rose on the enterprise of making arrangements to deal in beef, had a long conversation with Col. B. and Dr. Hughes on the subject generally. Called to see Col. B. Smith, learned but little from him. It is excessively warm to day.

Thursday, May 25th.

Devoted most of the day to conferences on the beef enterprise. Come to an agreement with Col. B. to enter generally into the business of shipping beef from Texas to this and other markets and to furnish same to Government. Rebel General Price and Brother arrived here to day. To stipulate, it is said, terms of surrender for the Rebel Army of the Trans



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Mississippi Department,  
Genl. Canby has come  
over from Mobile to meet  
them, nothing has yet  
transpired of what has  
been agreed on, if any  
agreement has been ar-  
rived at. There seems no  
doubt but the surren-  
der will be made, which,  
irrespective of the terms,  
is of greatest importance  
to Texas, and is most  
gratifying to me.

~~Friday~~ May 26th.

I drew up and submitted  
an article of co-partner-  
ship to Col. B. for general  
business in purchasing  
and selling beef in Texas,  
doubt if anything comes  
of it, the difficulty is to get  
money sufficient to carry  
on the business on a suffi-

sufficiently large scale to make  
it certainly profitable. The re-  
mor is to fight that Genl. Price  
and Buckner have come to an  
agreement with Genl. Canby  
on terms of surrendering the  
Trans Mississippi Department,  
except as to the cotton alleged  
to belong to the Confederate Govt.  
in that Department. The par-  
ticular point of difference  
on this subject is not stated,  
It is wrong for the U.S. to in-  
sist on the cotton when it has  
not been actually delivered  
to the Rebel authorities by  
the people, when it has then  
seems to be no other owner  
for it. But this article has  
great attractions for both  
sides and will be con-  
tinue for with most ac-  
ute diplomacy on both  
sides, to prove less than expected.

137 Saturday May 27, 1865

As I expected the beef  
enterprise would be worth  
of money, Col. R. not finding  
himself able within him-  
self he came to raise there-  
quisite amount, and to take  
in another party to do so, would  
reduce his interest so as to  
make it too small to merit  
his attention. Well this may  
prove to have been fortunate  
after all. Terms of surren-  
dering the Rebel troops of the  
Texas Inf. Dept. were agreed  
to and signed to day. They are  
substantially the same as  
those allowed Genl Taylor.  
I regard this a most fortu-  
nate termination of the  
war in Texas as it will save  
the people from the disas-  
ters of an invasion. It is  
particularly gratifying to

to me, as it promises a speedy  
return to my family and to  
submit longer to this horrible  
separation. I am well, high  
spirited, and would rather  
take the risk incident to the  
spirit of Bragg and his  
ism. The secessionists will  
take home with them, with-  
out being whipped in actual  
battle. They are more it longer.

Sunday, May 28th.

Attended service at the  
Episcopal church, a very  
small congregation and  
a poor sermon. Dined by in-  
vitation with Dr. Lyson.  
Went to see Dr. Pickles, found  
him bad off with inflam-  
matory rheumatism. Super-  
cilious, it is thought, by  
excessive drinking. He is  
a very good man and not  
narcotized or addicted to strong

139 drink to sleep. But he  
has suffered very much  
in mind from the con-  
dition of the country. The  
uncertainty as to the safety  
of his family and his separa-  
tion from them. It is an  
apt illustration of how dan-  
gerous it is to the habits of  
most men to be separated  
from home and family,  
under circumstances of  
a distressing character, if  
not under any. It requires  
unusual firmness to re-  
sist temptations that prom-  
ise even temporary relief  
to a mind suffering under  
distress of anxiety and sus-  
pense. It seems for men  
so when absent from the in-  
fluences of home and family.  
But few of the refugees have  
done so with entire success.

Monday, May 30th, 1865  
I was surprised to-day by  
the unannounced enter-  
ance in my room of J. P. Bal-  
lenger Esq of Galveston, who, af-  
ter mutually cordial greetings  
informed me he and Col. Ashbel  
Smith had been sent by the Gov.  
of Texas & Gen. Magruder re-  
spectively as commissioners  
to arrange terms of surren-  
dering the Confederate Army  
in Texas and to get some under-  
standing on the move to be  
pursued by the people re-  
organizing civil government  
and resume the relations of  
a state in the Union. They  
(for we soon joined Col. Smith)  
assuring me that it was the  
sincere desire of the people  
of Texas to reconstruct the  
government and to submit  
in good faith to the provisions

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jurisdiction of the Texas Government. They frankly admit that the Army had in great measure disbanded and gone home, the soldiers in disregard of the authority of their officers taking with them their arms and carrying away all the public property they could get their hands on, stating as a justification of the act that they had been paid nothing for a long time, that the property was public, and they were entitled to it. It seems they also appropriated Gen. Magruder's ambulance, it is likely though that it was public property. It is gratifying to learn that private property was respected. This state of anarchy strikes me as not altogether compatible

with the anxiety expressed that Federal troops should not be sent to Texas. There is evident a good deal of selfishness in this move on the part, especially of the civil authority. It seems the state officers are already parcelled out particularly the more important ones, the selections being made to suit the taste of the secessionists. At their request I accompanied them to an interview with Gen. Aubrey, which was protracted though not altogether satisfactory on all points to the commissioners. The Gen. declining to take any action or even to give an opinion on civil and political subjects, except as to the negroes who would be required to remain in status quo till the proper civil authority

1123) cannot take such ac-  
tion as the Gov. prescribes.  
Col. S. was very loquacious  
but not very efficient for an  
old diplomat, of which he  
made very pointed men-  
tion. They suggest the pri-  
ority of going to Washington  
City and receive the Genl's  
permission to do so.  
Wednesday, May 30th,

I spent some time this  
morning with Messrs. Smith  
& Ballenger, talked much of  
Texas matters, assuredly  
them of genuine friendly &  
peaceful disposition of  
the secessionists towards  
Unionists &c. &c. conferred  
with them on the charac-  
ter and form of written  
communication they  
wished to make to Genl. Canby,  
as to get the question of

reorganizing a State Govt. in  
Texas before the President for him  
to define some more of action,  
remade a part already  
written and wrote a part for  
them - to be adopted if they like  
it. I don't know if they do.

I learned that Genl. Canby is not  
but that Genl. Sherman is to have  
command in Texas. I regret  
this, since I do not know the  
latter but am pretty well ac-  
quainted with the latter and  
regard him a man of strict  
integrity, excellent capacity,  
highly conservative and ridi-  
culously just towards the people.

Wednesday May 31st  
Have done but little to-day,  
called on Mr. C. and on the  
Texas Commissioners, went this  
evening by request to Dr. H's,  
to carry up Mr. B. spent the  
evening pleasantly.



145<sup>th</sup> Thursday, June 1st 1865.  
Telegraphic communication opened to-day with New York. Met this evening with St. Col. Ry-  
an of Hubbardville Ind., informed me he had over 200 fugitives with him for sale and on their way home; among them my nephew, W. W. Peyton. He exhibits great bitterness of feeling and a determination not to live under the U. S. Govt. Tho, met me quite cordially.  
Friday June 2nd.

Messrs Smith & Ralston proposed that I go at once to Texas to influence as far as I may be able the public mind to the acceptance of the change & conciliation of

things and harmonize all parties to an early establishment of civil authority. Believing they say, I will have a salutary influence. At a conjuncture like this I do not feel any one has a right to withhold influence for the common good and may hasten over with this view. Genl. Sheridan reached here to-day. Have not met with him yet. Col. S. thinks to avoid any suspicion that he is influenced by the expectation of a pardon or other selfish motive, that it might be better for him to go a few days in advance of me. That an idea. I am to think over his suggestion and act on it in the morning. They both seem to understand better their position

Saturday, June 3rd, 1865

Called on Genl. Canby  
this morning to request  
him to give Mr. Ballenger  
such a letter to the Pres-  
ident as would secure  
him and audience &  
patient hearing so that  
a full understanding  
of affairs in Texas could  
be conveyed to him. He seem-  
ed all together willing to do  
so and said that his  
opinion that belonged  
to Texas, and he would  
speak to Genl. Sherman  
about my doing so at  
once. I have been making  
my arrangements as far  
as practicable to do so,  
and to obtain permission  
for Dr. Phillips to accompa-  
ny me as he desires much  
to do so for business operations.